

Labour compromise on poll date

Gould enters contest with tax challenge

By ROBIN OAKLEY AND PHILIP WEBSTER

BRYAN Gould set the Labour leadership contest alight yesterday by challenging the tax policies presented by his opponent, John Smith, to the British electorate.

Labour's tax package, he said, had showed "less than total sensitivity" to voters in the South whose support Labour needed.

The shadow environment secretary insisted that the party must have an economic policy as well as a tax policy. "If we find ourselves, as we did, unable to campaign, to argue, to debate on the great issues of economic policy, we were left with a very narrow terrain on which to fight economic issues," Mr Gould said. "That terrain was tax and I believe it was not the best territory for us to choose."

The national executive committee reached a compromise yesterday over the timing of the leadership election, which is now due to take place on July 18, three weeks later than Neil Kinnock had wanted.

Mr Gould also put his



name forward for the deputy leadership, as did John Prescott, Labour's transport spokesman. There was, however, intense speculation at Westminster last night that a third candidate might run for the job of deputy. It appeared that neither Gordon Brown, the shadow industry secretary, nor Tony Blair, the party's health spokesman, had been given encouragement by the Smith camp to stand for the post. This opened up the possibility that Margaret Beckett, Mr Smith's number two Treasury spokesman, or even Jack Cunningham, the party's campaign co-ordinator, might put their names forward.

Mr Gould, seeking to present himself as the radical candidate in opposition to the safety first approach of Mr Smith, the shadow chancellor, said that Labour had to win new constituencies of support. He said that the party should, for example, aim for the backing of women, young people, and "those who want to make something of themselves". Such people, he insisted, wanted to be sure that Labour would not be "setting caps on their aspirations".

Mr Gould, MP for Dagenham, Essex, emphasised his empathy with the aspiring C2 skilled working-class voters. Some party members believe that Mr Smith's tax and National Insurance package alienated them, but the shadow chancellor defended his tax package at the launch of his leadership campaign. He claimed that the "misrepresentation" of his tax policy might well have caused some people not to vote for Labour

last week. "I have in mind the fact that it was not seriously disputed, at any stage during the election, that eight out of ten families would gain as a result of Labour's tax and spending proposals, and yet a number of people who would undoubtedly be beneficiaries of what we were proposing appear not to have recognised that."

Both he and Mr Gould emphasised their unwillingness to enter pacts or deals with the Liberal Democrats and both proclaimed that the party should work for greater equality in Britain. Mr Gould underlined, however, that this goal had to be achieved through wealth creation as well as taxation.

While Mr Smith emphasised his pro-European credentials and his readiness for "positive partnership", Mr Gould held out the prospect of a Labour party devaluing the exchange rate of the pound within the exchange-rate mechanism under his leadership. He said that that defence of the pound at an unrealistic level could force deflationary policies on the country.

The decision to hold the leadership election on July 18 came at the end of a prolonged debate in which many members claimed that the contest was being rushed. Several members, including Sam McCuskie, the party treasurer, argued that the election should not be held until Labour's annual conference in the autumn.

Neil Kinnock and Roy Hattersley favoured the timetable suggested by the Labour leader in his resignation statement, which would have allowed the election to take place on June 27. The compromise of July 18 received the backing of both Robin Cook, Mr Smith's campaign manager, and David Blunkett, Mr Gould's campaign chief.

Earlier in a statement launching his candidature for the leadership, Mr Gould said he shared "the disquiet that is now widespread in the party at the speed with which we are being assured that the

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Bar retains monopoly of higher court access

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE Crown Prosecution Service has failed in its attempt to break the Bar's monopoly of advocacy rights in the crown and higher courts.

A report published yesterday recommended that solicitors in private practice and with additional training should have rights of audience in the higher courts. But solicitors employed by government, local authorities and industry, and employed barristers will not. A committee set up to advise Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, said that employed lawyers could not,

at present, show the necessary detachment and impartiality. The committee also accepted arguments by the Bar and senior judges that allowing the Crown Prosecution Service limited rights of audience in higher courts would be the "thin end of the wedge" leading to a monopoly.

David Gandy, acting director of public prosecutions, promised to continue to press the case for all employed lawyers to be given rights of audience in higher courts.

Monopoly breached, page 4
 Leading article, page 13



In tatters: the firm's offices in St Mary Axe

BY JON ASHWORTH

SHAREHOLDERS in Commercial Union who spent the weekend well away from a television set had a nasty surprise when they turned up for their annual meeting yesterday. The venue was no longer there.

The Baltic Exchange in the heart of the City lies in ruins and the black-framed Commercial Union office in St Mary Axe is in tatters. The insurance group had chosen the site for its annual meeting long before Friday's bomb blast. In the best British tradition, the show had to go on.

Nicholas Baring, the chairman, and his directors were obliged by company law to go to the original site, declare the meeting adjourned, and move to a new venue. Thousands of pounds were spent advertising the change of location in national newspapers. Mr Baring and his team arrived at the appointed time,



Out in the cold: Edwina Currie being ushered from 10 Downing Street yesterday after refusing a junior minister's job in John Major's new government

Two held after arms cache find

ANTI-terrorist police were questioning a man and a woman last night after an arms cache was found in a lock-up garage in northwest London.

The couple are being held under the Prevention of Terrorism Act at the high-security Paddington Green police station. Officers would not say whether they were being interviewed about last Friday's IRA van bombings in the City of London and Staples Corner, in north London, which killed three people and injured 91.

It is understood that the arrests came after a lengthy surveillance operation by the anti-terrorist squad. The couple were arrested late on Monday night in an operation involving 30 police officers, some of them armed. Neighbours of the couple said yesterday they had previously seen two Transit vans parked outside the couple's bungalow in Islip Gardens, Northolt.

Forensic scientists yesterday spent the day at the bungalow. The police said later: "Part of our continuing operations has led to the recovery of arms and explosives."

The Irish National Liberation Army yesterday claimed that it shot and killed an army sergeant as he left work at a recruiting centre in Derby on Monday evening. Michael Newman, 34, who was shot in the head at point blank range, died in hospital yesterday morning.

Target stalked, page 3
 Conor Cruise O'Brien, page 12

World court rules against Libya

By TOM WALKER IN THE HAGUE AND MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THE International Court of Justice in The Hague yesterday said it had no power to prevent the United Nations Security Council enacting sanctions against Libya for shielding the Lockerbie bombers.

Sanctions will therefore go into effect against Colonel Muammar Gaddafi's regime at 5am British time. These include halting flights to and from Libya, a ban on weapons sales and reductions in Libyan diplomatic personnel.

Frank Berman, the legal adviser to the Foreign Office who was in The Hague to hear the court's decision, said he was "very satisfied" with the ruling. He said if Libya decided to continue its case against Britain and America "we will fight it with utmost vigour all the way".

Libya yesterday endorsed an Arab League offer to hand over the two men to Malta, which said it would accept them. But this move, due to be discussed privately by the

security council yesterday, was almost certain to be rejected by the West.

The government reaffirmed yesterday that it intended to work closely with the American, French and other governments of the security council and with the UN secretary-general, Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, will today outline what further steps Britain may propose. James Baker, the American Secretary of State, said he was delighted that the world court was not going to attempt to interfere with the security council decision.

However, one of the European lawyers acting for Tripoli in the case, the Belgian professor Jean Salmon, denounced the ruling. "The UN Security Council now has the right to crush little countries and the court has bowed to the powers of the council," he said.

The 16-member court ruled by 11 votes to five against granting Libya a temporary restraining order against Britain and America. Libya had argued that Britain and America had breached the Montreal Convention on Air Terrorism by their moves in the security council to force Libya to hand over the two suspected bombers for trial. However, the court ruled that the UN Charter is superior to the Montreal Convention.

The five judges in the minority did not necessarily endorse Libya's claim to interfere. Continued on page 16, col 1

Baker: delighted with the court's decision

Libya defiant, page 7

Currie snubs Major over job

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

EDWINA Currie's refusal to make a comeback in John Major's new administration last night overshadowed the biggest overhaul of the government since 1979.

Mr Major's efforts to complete a reshuffle involving 22 exits and entrances among 83 cabinet and middle and junior-ranking posts were thrown into disarray by Mrs Currie's snub. A scheduled briefing for political reporters at Westminster and the release of the official list of the new government were delayed as a result.

Mrs Currie, 45, was called to Downing Street in the late afternoon amid widespread speculation that she would return to government after more than three years in exile

Patten offer

Chris Patten, the Conservative Party chairman who lost his Bath seat at the election, has been offered the governorship of Hong Kong. party sources said last night. Diary, page 12

as a result of her resignation over the "salmonella in eggs" affair. She said later, however, that she had refused an offer of promotion to minister of state level.

"The prime minister and I had a long and friendly discussion and I was very honoured to be asked to join his government. However, I felt that someone else could do the job far better than I, so I have declined."

Downing Street sources confirmed Mrs Currie's account, but would not give no details. Immediately it was rumoured that Mrs Currie had been offered a job working for Kenneth Clarke in the Home Office and had rejected it because of a potential personality clash. Mr Clarke was health secretary when Mrs Currie quit amid the furor generated by her remark that most egg production in Britain was infected by salmonella.

The former junior health minister's snub to the prime minister would seem to end all hopes she might have had of regaining office. Her decision will be regarded with amazement on the Tory benches, particularly in the

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New government, page 6

TODAY IN THE TIMES

FAITH...



Was Mary Magdalene really a sinner — or the first apostle? Life & Times Page 4

HOPE...



The woman with big ideas for an erotic magazine, complete with male nudes Life & Times Page 5

AND CHARITY



The Freddie Mercury memorial concert will help Aids victims — will it also help the performers? Life & Times Page 1

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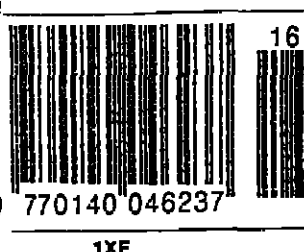
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Rivals for Labour leadership outline their programmes to make party electable

Voice of calm promises wider appeal

By Philip Webster
Chief Political Correspondent

JOHN Smith launched his campaign for the Labour leadership yesterday with a promise to try to broaden the party's appeal and to carry on Neil Kinnock's work of modernising its structures and procedures.

The shadow chancellor demonstrated all his calmness, reassurance, self-confidence and caution as he laid out his credentials for the job at a Westminster press conference. Mr Smith's unshakable belief in redistributing wealth and the need to improve public services and reduce poverty means that he will have support from the left as well as right in a contest for which he is the clear favourite.

Mr Smith said yesterday that the "misrepresentation" of the taxation policies had persuaded some people not to support Labour and he regretted that the party had not conveyed the fact that eight out of 10 families would have benefited.

Mr Smith, the youngest member of James Callaghan's cabinet in 1978, has been widely regarded as an adherent of Treasury orthodoxy during his period as shadow chancellor, forever emphasising that Labour would spend no more than it could afford, would never devalue and would put up interest rates if necessary.

Yesterday, as he stated his case, he engaged in some fence-sitting. His broad philosophy was clear: "The Labour party must produce policies which convince voters that their own prosperity depends on a government which takes active responsibility to promote a strong economy and that their own families — is best advanced by a government which works for the welfare of the whole community."

He underlined his strong support for Europe and promised to modernise the constitution with a Bill of Rights and a full examination of electoral reform. He backed devolution. Pressed for his opinion on proportional representation, he said that it would be wrong for him to indicate a strong personal view, because it might have the wrong influence on the debate.

On the union block vote, he said that he understood the feelings of some about its "inappropriateness" but there should be careful study and examination. On the reasons why Labour lost the election, it would be premature to come to conclusions before a full analysis, he said.

There was firmness as he ruled out a political realignment involving an arrangement with the Liberal Democrats. "I do not think electoral pacts work. Political parties do not own votes."

There was irritation at suggestions that he would win the leadership because of a union "stitch-up". He said 60 per cent of the votes in the contest went to MPs and party members. He urged every constituency party to ballot its members and the unions to consult widely, using ballots wherever possible.

Union drops selection ballot

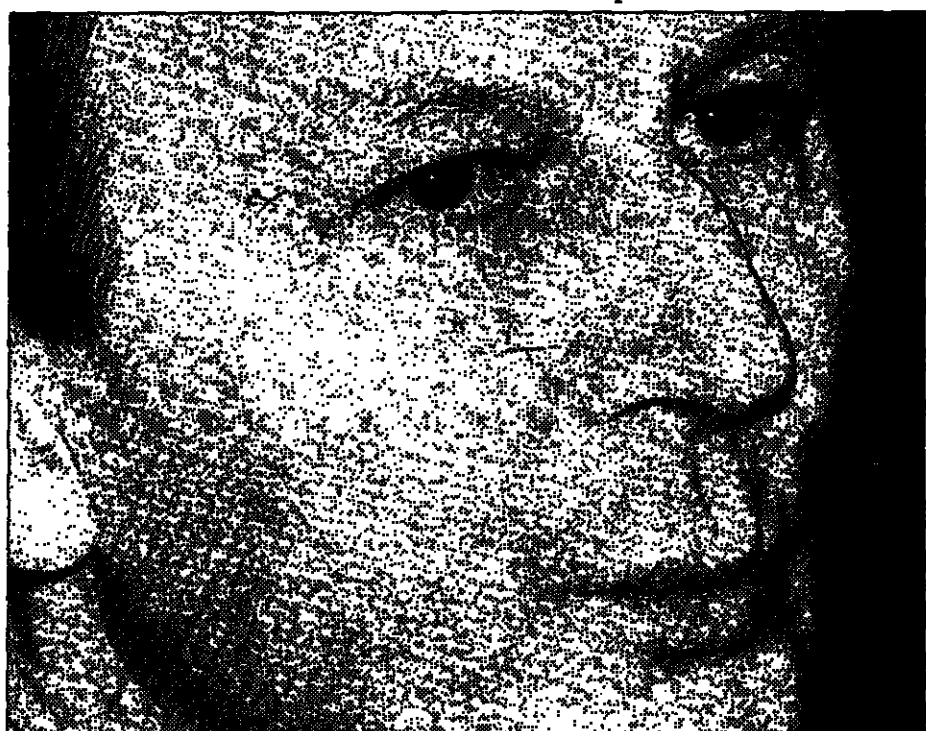
By Ross Tieman, Industrial Correspondent

THE leaders of Britain's second-largest trade union, the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union, broke with tradition yesterday and decided not to ballot their one million members over the Labour leadership contest.

Bill Jordan, union president, and Gavin Laird, general secretary, promised the widest possible consultation with members, but gave personal endorsements to John Smith. Mr Jordan said that the union had no money for a ballot because it had spent its political fund on helping Labour in the general election. Mr Laird said that a ballot would have cost £110,000 and would add damaging de-



John Smith: "I do not think electoral pacts work"



Bryan Gould: "We must set out to win new constituencies of support"

Radical has an eye on more reform

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

BRYAN Gould presented himself yesterday as the radical candidate who would seek to reach those voters the party has failed to impress so far.

He said that he would stand for the leadership and deputy leadership and questioned the speed at which the contest was being staged. The party had hard thinking to do and needed a period of serious reflection about what he called its grievous defeat.

He insisted on the need for hard decisions, for challenging pre-conceived ideas and for changing much more than the face at the top. "If Labour is to win the next election we must consciously set out to win new constituencies of support," Mr Gould said. "If that requires a radical rethinking of some of our policies, so be it."

In what seemed to be an oblique criticism of the election effort of Labour's Treasury team, he said: "We must be seen to have an economic policy as well as a tax policy. We must emphasise wealth creation and investment... we must tackle the issue of redistribution by involving more people as wealth producers rather than simply as benefit recipients and provide them with new rights as employees."

Mr Gould made clear that a Labour party under his leadership would open up debate about the rate at which Britain had entered the exchange-rate mechanism and signalled his willingness to consider revising the exchange rate for the pound.

A Labour party led by Bryan Gould would never be short of ideas or style. But with his hands on the driving wheel it would be a bumper ride for the Labour party than under John Smith. Mr Gould epitomises the cordless telephone socialism of the Kinnock years. He is radical thinker from the soft left of the Labour party, a one-time unilateralist and a Euro-sceptic since his days as parliamentary secretary to the anti-market Peter Shore.

He was one of the prime movers behind the two-year policy review, and occasionally suffered in the party for

pioneering new policy lines before the party leadership or the activists were ready to take them on board.

Although Mr Gould's instincts are more radical than those of Mr Smith he does have, as one of Labour's few members in the South, a sensitivity to the aspirations of the more affluent skilled workers whom Labour has to win back to have a chance of winning the next election. He is a realist, telling Jonathan Dimbleby in an *On the Record* interview on Sunday: "I think that the British people, left to their own devices in most circumstances, will go for the pocketbook issues. If we choose to fight on those issues the chances are that in the last 48 hours of a campaign the tabloids will turn the tables on us."

As a Rhodes scholar at Balliol, Oxford, in the early sixties he was horrified and radicalised by what he perceived as the class nature of British society and by what he regarded as manipulations by the City to frustrate the result of Labour's election in 1964.

A former number two Treasury spokesman and shadow trade secretary, he is happy with facts and figures as well as with party polemics and won plaudits from Tories as well as Labour for his mastery of the Financial Services Bill in 1986.

He is no hair-shirt socialist but a man with two homes and a good nose for burgundy. He has been the epitome of the new more glamorous and outward-looking red rose Labour party.

He has regularly secured a high vote in shadow cabinet elections since 1986 and has been elected to Labour's national executive since 1987.

Convictions for aiding immigrants overturned

Two men jailed for helping asylum-seekers to travel to Britain on forged passports were cleared of aiding illegal immigration yesterday. The Court of Appeal held that they had not committed any offence because the asylum-seekers were not illegal entrants at the point of disembarkation at Gatwick airport.

Lord Justice Watkins said that disembarkation could not be equated with entry. The families had immediately claimed political refugee status. They did not seek to go through immigration control and did not proffer any forged documents.

The convictions of Yabu Naillie, 41, a Kenyan national, and Rajaratnam Kanesarajah, 45, a Sri-Lankan born British national, on charges of facilitating illegal entry under the provisions of the 1971 Immigration Act could not be upheld, the court said. Naillie had been jailed for 15 months by Isleworth crown court, Kanesarajah, of Hayes, west London, had been given 15 months by Croydon crown court.

Inquest into election death

An inquest into the death of a Labour party activist who fell 80ft from a railway viaduct within hours of the Tories winning the election was adjourned yesterday. The body of Mark Kettle, 23, vice-chairman of the Paddock district party, was discovered on Friday afternoon on the banks of the Colne, West Yorkshire.

James Turnbull, the coroner, was told that Mr Kettle, a single man whose life revolved around the Labour party, had walked out of a celebration marking the return of Barry Sheerman, Huddersfield's Labour MP, when it became apparent that the Conservatives would win.

Manx tax will stay at 15%

Standard income tax on the Isle of Man is to stay at 15 per cent, Donald Gelling, the Manx treasury minister, told the Tynwald yesterday. The top rate, applying after the first £8,000 of taxable income and to companies, remains at 20 per cent.

New incentives to attract more businesses include cutting the maximum fees for company registration from £50,000 to £5,000, extra funding for industry and a 10 per cent rebate on employers' national insurance contributions. The Manx unemployment rate is under 4 per cent.

Milk rethink

The Milk Marketing Board yesterday bowed to commercial and political pressure and formally proposed turning itself into a voluntary dairy farmers' co-operative, relinquishing its 59-year-old monopoly of the purchase and sale of milk in England and Wales. The board handles milk from 30,000 producers and has an annual turnover of more than £2 billion.

Howard home

The comedian Frankie Howard, 70, yesterday left the Harley Street Clinic in London where he has spent the past two weeks being treated for a heart condition. He thanked well-wishers for the many gifts and messages of support he had received and said: "I am now looking forward to a couple of months rest before getting back to work, so the best of Easter wishes to you all."

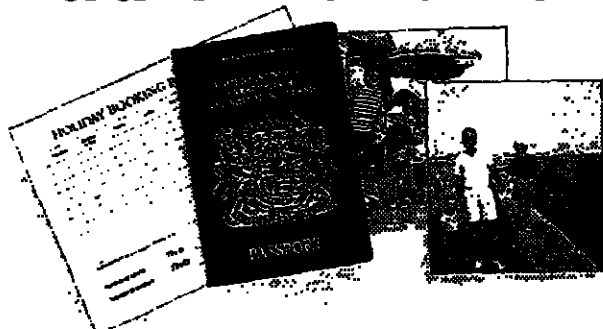
CORRECTION

The reference in *The Times* yesterday to the Duke of Windsor being posted to Bermuda as governor during the war was incorrect. He was sent to the Bahamas.

EASTER WEATHER SHOCK

Our reliable source tells us that weather experts are expecting the entire country to be flooded this Easter. That is flooded with the brilliant new strategy game - SPECTRANGLE. Floodgates open at W.H. Smith, Harrods, Hamleys, all leading department stores and good toy shops.

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Viability of new channel in doubt

By Melinda Wittstock, Media Correspondent

THE viability of Channel 5, Britain's fifth terrestrial television channel, was thrown into doubt yesterday when the Independent Television Commission, inviting bids for the new channel, said it could not guarantee that it would be launched.

At least three million video recorders will suffer interference from Channel 5, and unless the ITC is assured that a bidder possesses a viable plan for returning all affected recorders within 21 days after a request is made, it will not award a licence.

Channel 5, which must be on the air no later than the end of 1994 after being awarded to the highest cash bidder this November, could be run as a network of city television stations or as a single national entertainment channel.

Hopes that it will offer a real alternative to the BBC, ITV and Channel 4 could be dashed by the blind bidding system and a clause in the 1990 broadcasting act preventing the ITC from involving the quality threshold to award Channel 5 to a bidder planning city "opt-outs" — simultaneous but different broadcasts in different cities. Instead, broadcasters believe that it will become a cheaper, downmarket entertainment channel showing repeats and acquired material.

The ITC said yesterday that only 30 per cent of Channel 5's output need be originally produced, but rising to 55 per cent by 2001. The channel will cover only 74 per cent of the population, missing out much of the South of England with the exception of London and Southampton.

The ITC said that Channel

5 must offer "programmes of high quality that appeal to a wide variety of tastes and interests". Programme guidelines, however, are much less strict than those governing ITV, with only news, current affairs, children's and religious programming classified as a mandatory requirement.

A network of city stations beginning with London and followed soon after by Manchester, each broadcasting two to three hours of local news plus a national programme of music and films, is planned by Five TV, a consortium led by the Canadian broadcaster Moses Zaslamer. Thames Television, a loser in last autumn's ITV auction, is likely to join Five TV along with Time Warner, the world's largest media group.

Silvio Berlusconi, the Italian media mogul, promises a national channel of high-quality entertainment. Programmes would be supplied by Channel X, the independent run by Jonathan Ross, the chat show host, and Mike Bolland, a former director of Channel 4. Signor Berlusconi's European channels are known for a cheap menu of game shows, soaps and softcore pornography.

Yesterday, Mr Bolland promised a "mix of hard news and personality-based current affairs, and quality entertainment-led evening schedules with strong emphasis on film and television drama produced in the UK".

Other potential bidders include Conrad Black, the Canadian owner of *The Daily Telegraph*; TV-am, another ITV loser and CLT, the Luxembourg broadcaster.

Business News, page 18

BBC is 'plotting cuts in secret'

By Our Media Correspondent

BBC executives are pre-empting public debate on the future of the corporation by embarking on "secret plans" to significantly slim it down with market-oriented reforms, the broadcasting union, Bectu, said yesterday.

Internal BBC reports leaked to the union show that the management is considering a number of radical measures. These include reliance on the independent sector for 40 per cent of television programmes instead of the 25 per cent quota required by law; privatising BBC Education and closing the Open University production centre at Milton Keynes; ending all union recognition and introducing personal contracts; leasing BBC's airtime from 9am to 1pm every weekday to commercial broadcasters; and axing 10,000 jobs by the time the BBC charter expires in 1996.

The union also said that the BBC had commissioned a confidential study on how much extra revenue it could make if it allowed two minutes of advertising every hour on BBC1 and BBC2. The "bombshell document" showed that BBC revenues in 1996 could reach £3.52 billion if it took advertising, against the estimated £1.3 billion it would get from the licence fee.

Tony Lennon, the Bectu co-president, said that the changes going on behind closed doors were so radical that David Mellor, the national heritage secretary, would be presented with a "sawm-off corporation" when considers the BBC's future. "This must be the greatest act of deceit and treachery

against the public and the government," he said.

The BBC said yesterday that not all of the recommendations in the 15 internal "task force" reports commissioned by Sir Michael Checkland, the director-general, would necessarily be implemented. A spokesman said: "The reports do not mean the BBC is cutting back in advance of the debate over its future. They contain proposals which may or may not be included in the BBC's view of its future."

Sir Michael wrote to BBC staff last week denying that a total of 10,000 jobs would have been lost by 1996. However, the union said that 4,300 people had already been made redundant, and that further job cuts were an inevitable part of the Producer Choice reforms. Mr Lennon said: "Checkland has promised a lot of things, but let's see what the real story is when he leaves." John Birt takes over from Sir Michael next April.

Bectu yesterday began balloting its 14,000 members on a one-day strike that would disrupt BBC radio and television programmes on May 15, five days before the boards of management and governors review the task force reports. Mr Lennon said that Bectu was also protesting against Producer Choice, an "internal market" scheme that will make all resource departments compete on price and quality with commercial rivals.

Mr Lennon said that many resource departments had been weighed down with big overheads, could not compete on price and faced closure.

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Convictions
for aiding
immigrants
overturned

Army target stalked by gunmen before killing

By CRAIG SETON

POLICE believe that the gunmen who murdered an army recruitment officer in Derby picked him out after keeping watch on the office where he worked.

Sergeant Michael Newman, 34, a career soldier with the Royal Signals Regiment, was wearing civilian clothes when he was shot once in the head at close range in daylight as he crossed a car park in the city centre after leaving work at the combined Army and Navy Recruitment Office.

Detectives think he was followed by two young men and that one fired a single shot from a handgun after saying something to attract the soldier's attention. They escaped in a car driven by a third man. A senior police officer said it was a carefully planned operation to kill and unarm serving officer.

Sgt Newman died yesterday morning at the city's Derbyshire Royal Infirmary after an all night fight by surgeons to save his life. Joyce Newman, 58, his mother, and Elizabeth Broadhurst, 28, his girl friend, were at his side.

Miss Broadhurst said at a press conference yesterday: "What person could walk up to another human being and shoot them dead at point blank? They are not human beings, they are animals."

Sgt Newman was separated from Dawn, his wife, with whom he had a daughter, Danielle, 8. Ms Broadhurst was due to marry him when

his divorce came through. She and Mrs Newman were near to breaking down as they described Sgt Newman as a quiet man.

Ms Broadhurst said his death would achieve nothing towards resolving the Northern Ireland troubles. "I am so angry towards the people out there who have done this. We want them caught. They do not care about the devastation they leave behind. It does not enter their heads."

Mrs Newman said: "I am just numb. Why? It is all so unnecessary, isn't it, just taking life over and over again?"

The Irish National Liberation Army, the Republican paramilitary splinter group, claimed responsibility. Police began a nationwide search yesterday for the three-man gang. Don Davoston, assistant chief constable of Derbyshire, said that Sgt Newman left the careers office in Main Centre, a busy shopping precinct, by a rear exit with another serviceman, also in civilian clothes.

They parted at an underpass leading to the Carrington Street car park, where the sergeant's red Volkswagen Jetta car was parked. It was believed that two men waiting for him followed him through the underpass into the open air parking area.

Mr Davoston said: "It appears from the limited information we have that a very brief conversation may have taken place, followed by one of the men discharging his gun into the sergeant's head at point blank range."

People ran to the soldier's aid as he fell critically injured. The assailants ran a short distance to a gold-coloured Ford Granada car. It was abandoned a quarter of a mile away and three men were seen running away.

They were all wearing baseball hats and two may of been in their teens. The car was believed to have been sold locally some weeks earlier and is thought to have been seen parked in a residential area of Derby for several days. Sgt Newman was rushed to hospital and put on a life support machine. Mr Davoston said military staff such as Sgt Newman working in careers offices "are only people like ourselves. They are not armed in any way in these premises and they are not operational in any way. That is the tragedy of the whole thing."



Grim task: a police team preparing yesterday to search the area where Sgt Newman was shot in the head as he walked to his car



Under guard: the bungalow where the couple were arrested yesterday

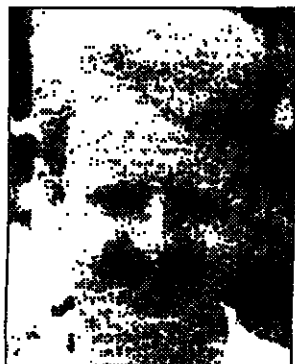
Police silent on arrests

POLICE refused to say last night whether the arrests yesterday of two people under the Prevention of Terrorism Act were connected with the IRA's weekend bomb attacks in London.

Neighbours said that they knew the couple as Audrey, who had lived at the bungalow in Northolt, west London, for about nine years, and Jimmy, who had been there for two years. Both were said to have Scottish accents.

The neighbours spoke of activity, sometimes late at night, outside the couple's home and of seeing two vans parked near by.

The arrests are said to have followed months of enquiries by anti-terrorist detectives, including surveillance operations in the capital.



Sgt Newman: all-night fight to save his life

Breakaway group may be recruiting young activists

THE small Irish National Liberation Army, which yesterday admitted shooting Michael Newman, has frequently been written off as a serious security threat, especially in mainland Britain.

The group first earned notoriety in 1979 with the booby-trap killing of Airey Neave, Conservative spokesman for Northern Ireland, but by 1987 feuding had split the group into the INLA and the Irish People's Liberation Organisation.

The IPLO has remained more active in Northern Ireland. Little has been heard of the INLA there, but obituary notices for this most unpredictable of republican groups have proved to be premature. Only last November it came close to assassinating Laurence Kennedy, leader of the Conservative Party in Northern Ireland.

Security sources in Northern Ireland decline to give any estimate of how many people are in the INLA, and it is thought unlikely that it numbers more than 20 activists. Reports that two of the three men in the Derby killing appear to be teenagers suggest that it is still attracting young recruits and trying to get itself back on the map.

The INLA was formed in

Michael Horsnell and Peter Victor report on the paramilitary group that even the IRA regards as a wild maverick

1975 after the official IRA declared a ceasefire that angered many of its younger members. The group's origins can also be linked to the formation in 1975 of the small Trotskyite Irish Republican Socialist Party by Seamus Costello, a republican who was later murdered by rivals in Dublin.

In 1982 the INLA was responsible for the murder of 11 off-duty soldiers and six civilians with a 5lb bomb that brought down the concrete roof of the crowded Droppin' Well Inn disco at Ballykelly. A year later it killed three worshippers in an attack on a church hall in Co. Armagh, but by 1987 it appeared to fragment into murderous factions, culminating in the murder of Mary McGlinchey, 32, who was the wife of an INLA founder-member.

Many of the INLA's members were jailed during the

supergrass trials in the late 1980s and although some were released on appeal the police had gained vital intelligence that has kept the group largely on the sidelines ever since.

The group has rarely struck on the mainland, although a year after Airey Neave's murder it admitted planting two bombs at an Army camp at Netheravon, Wiltshire, which injured two soldiers.

In November 1985, the INLA claimed it had planted the two 40lb bombs, packed with iron bolts and nuts, which were discovered and defused outside Chelsea Barracks in London. Police sources described the weapons as crudely designed and doubted the group had the capability to mount a sustained campaign on the mainland. A year later, Patrick McLaughlin was sentenced to life for the bomb plot.

The INLA has always been regarded as rather more wild and reckless than the Provisional IRA, which has long regarded the group as a threat to its own security.

The groups were briefly united during the 1981-82 block hunger strikes, when two INLA members were among the ten who died.

Glaziers find a silver lining

By LIN JENKINS

THOUSANDS of workmen poured into the City of London at first light yesterday to begin repairing the 200 buildings damaged by the IRA bomb.

With acres of glass to be replaced almost every glazing firm in the South-East has been working day and night since the police first gave the all clear to enter some of the buildings on Friday night.

David Cummings, general manager of Express Glazing Contractors, which is working on the Hong Kong and Shanghai bank, said: "It was all very political over the weekend with people

saying they would reopen on Monday regardless and that we must be seen to beat the terrorists. There was enormous pressure to board up the buildings and make them secure so the police could reopen the roads and keep congestion to a minimum. It was a minor miracle that it happened."

He said his company would begin on Friday to replace the building's distinctive green anti-sun glass, a task which would take 18 people about nine weeks. "The glazing industry was on its knees in November-December so it's definitely been a shot in the

arm, but it is not a desirable way to make money. It leaves a bad taste." He said maintenance contracts prevented profiteering.

Michael Weston-Smith, managing director of Birmingham Guild, which has just bought from the receiver the glazing firm which worked on the NatWest building, believes the unexpected work will save many small firms.

"The adversarial nature of the construction industry at the moment is horrendous and a number of sub-contractors have gone out of business. No doubt this work will help many."


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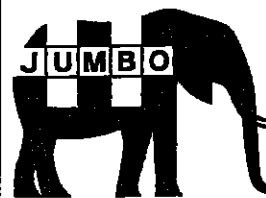


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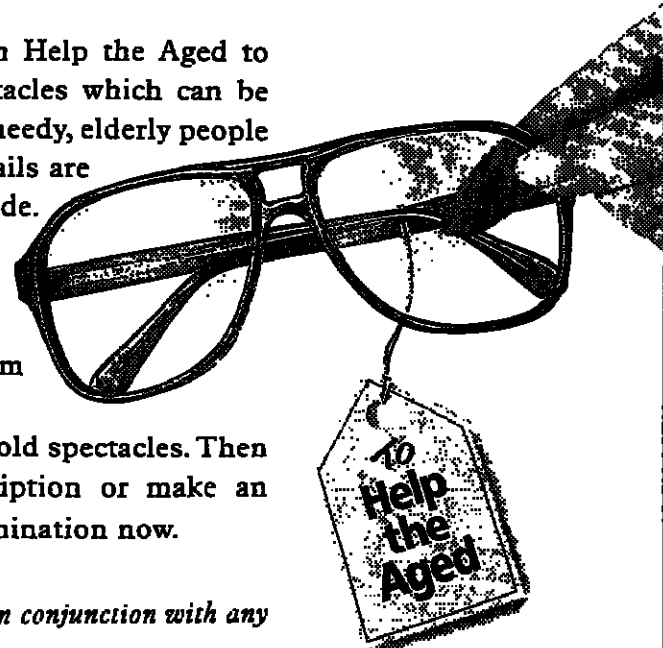
Forget picturesque
gites: is the British
invasion of France
about to drive the
citoyens aux armes?

SATURDAY
REVIEW

BLEASDALE'S
FINEST HOUR



Forget writing: the
most glittering prize
of Alan Bleasdale's
career was with
Huyton boys' football
team



Solicitors breach Bar monopoly of higher courts

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

ADVOCACY in the higher courts, previously a monopoly of the Bar, is to be opened to solicitors in private practice after a report published yesterday by a committee advising the Lord Chancellor.

However, solicitors employed by the Crown Prosecution Service, the government legal service, local authorities and industry and employed barristers have failed in their attempt to be allowed rights of audience in the higher courts.

The 16-member committee of lawyers and laymen appointed by Lord Mackay of Clashfern said that it doubted whether employed lawyers could demonstrate the necessary objectivity required in higher courts.

It also said that granting even limited rights of audience to the Crown Prosecution Service could lead to a state monopoly of prosecution advocacy. The Bar and senior members of the judiciary have fought the service's attempt to be allowed rights of audience limited to cases up to three days in length.

The committee, however, offered the service hope that it could eventually be given a limited extension of its rights of audience. It said it was attracted to a mixed system in which most crown court cases were prosecuted by independent advocates but with the option for the CPS prosecuting a limited number of less serious cases. It suggested

that once the CPS had overcome its initial manpower, resourcing and organisational difficulties, it could take on the additional responsibilities of providing advocacy work in the higher courts. Any limited extension of its rights of audience would have to be accompanied by machinery to prevent the development of a Crown Prosecution Service monopoly of crown court prosecution.

Lord Griffiths, the law lord who chairs the advisory committee, said there had been a radical change in government thinking since 1983, when ministers accepted that the Bar should maintain sole rights of audience in the higher courts. "I don't blame the Bar for defending their patch but we did not wholly accept their points on a number of matters," he said.

He said that extending rights of audience to solicitors would enable clients to be represented in the higher courts by the lawyer with whom they felt "most comfortable". But Lord Griffiths said that having one advocate to both prepare and present a case might not necessarily be cheaper as barristers often had much lower overheads than solicitors.

The committee backed part of a Law Society application for solicitors to have full rights of audience in the higher courts. Solicitors in private practice with at least three years' experience, special

training and qualifications are to be allowed to present cases in the higher courts in England and Wales.

Brushing aside objections from barristers, the committee said that the Bar's "cab rank" rule, under which barristers are supposed to take work on a first-come first-served basis, should not be imposed on solicitors. Nor are they to be subject to the rule which requires barristers to accept a legal aid brief regardless of the pay.

The Bar criticised the cab-rank exception and the amount of training in advocacy offered to solicitors. "The committee would allow solicitors practising relatively infrequently in the lower courts to obtain full rights of audience after an advocacy course over what amounts to an extended weekend," Gareth Williams, chairman of the Bar, said. The Bar had suggested a four-month course followed by a four-month period of tutelage.

The committee has been considering which lawyers should be allowed into which courts for a year and as a result of yesterday's report the Law Society will revise its rules before deciding whether to submit its application to the Lord Chancellor. The dilemma facing the Law Society is whether to abandon its attempt to get rights of audience for employed solicitors.

Leading article, page 13



Lord Griffiths: accepts that Bar had to try to "defend its patch"

British diet lacks healthy balance

BY NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

A SURVEY of 100 scientific reports on diet published between 1961 and 1991 shows that British governments have failed to translate scientific conclusions into policy, the Consumers' Association says.

The British diet is a public health problem that requires urgent action, according to a report written for the association by the food writer Geoffrey Cannon.

He says that the British diet has become unbalanced and unhealthy in spite of growing consensus among dieticians about what a healthy diet comprises. The government and opposition parties should devise progressive agriculture and food policies based on good science, with public health as the first priority.

Mr Cannon's report concedes that some experts do not agree that the diet is unhealthy, but indicates that they are a minority. The "general agreement" he extracted from the 100 reports can be summarised as saying that Britons eat too much fat, particularly hard, saturated fat, too much sugar and salt, and not enough fibre.

A healthy diet is, he says, rich in vegetables and fruit, bread, cereals, and other starchy food, and includes fish and moderate amounts of lean meat and low-fat dairy produce.

Food and Health: The Experts Agree (Consumers' Association, PO Box 44, Hertford X, SG14 1SH; £29.95)

Childhood cancer study launched

A NATIONWIDE study to discover whether childhood cancers can be inherited was launched yesterday in London. The three-year project also aims to find out whether radiation or drug treatments harm the reproductive cells.

Doctors plan to monitor 5,000 people born before 1969 who survived childhood cancer. The risk of a second cancer developing in patients previously treated for the disease when they were young will also be examined in the study, funded by the Cancer Research Campaign.

Questionnaires are being sent to hospital consultants and GPs. Dr Mike Hawkins, of the Childhood Cancer Research Group at Oxford University, the research team leader, said: "Although based on limited data the results so far are reassuring for survivors and their offspring."

More than 70 per cent of children survive the most common form of leukaemia, and more than half of those treated for childhood cancer in Britain live for more than five years.

£748,400 sale

An album of previously unknown drawings by the Swiss artist Henry Fuseli fetched £748,400 at auction yesterday at Christie's in London. Many of the works, which covered the artist's career in Rome and London, were bought by museums and private collectors from Switzerland and Germany. The top price of £55,000 was for a study of "The Massacre of the Innocents".

Russian visit

Cardinal Basil Hume is to visit Russia next week at the invitation of Archbishop Tadeusz Kondrusiewicz, apostolic administrator for Roman Catholics in European Russia. The six-day visit, which begins on Monday, is thought to be the first by an Archbishop of Westminster. Cardinal Hume said: "I am delighted to be making my first visit to Russia at such a time of new beginnings."

£7m boat deals

CONTRACTS worth £7 million for the construction of two Customs and Excise sea patrol vessels have been won by Vosper Thornycroft (UK), of Southampton, and Babcock Thorn, of Royal Rosyth dockyard. Customs and Excise said that the cutters would carry advanced surveillance equipment to help in the battle against drug smugglers using small craft to land cargoes in Britain.

Transplant wait

Adult liver transplants at Addenbrooke's Hospital, in Cambridge, might be resumed next week after being halted by the outbreak of a highly infectious bacteria that closed the intensive care unit and contributed to the death of a patient. Keith Day, the hospital's administrative director, said that he hoped that the intensive care unit would be reopened by the weekend.

Six years for toothpaste blackmailer

A WAITER was jailed for six years yesterday for threatening to poison tubes of Colgate toothpaste unless the company handed over £170,000. Antonio Quintas was found guilty by a jury at the Central Criminal Court.

Quintas, 37, of Portlady-by-Sea, East Sussex, and an accomplice wrote a series of blackmail letters, signed Laurel and Hardy, to the headquarters of Colgate Palmolive in Guildford, Surrey. They claimed that they had mixed two "highly poisonous sub-

stances" to look like toothpaste and had injected it into tubes of Colgate. If the company did not pay up, the tubes would be planted on shelves and a newspaper would be informed. Simon Wild, for the prosecution, told the Central Criminal Court, London.

Quintas admitted blackmail. His accomplice, whom he said he knew only as James, has not been found. The pair's first letter, last December, told the company to lower the flag outside its offices if it agreed to comply

with the demands and not to tell police. Colgate Palmolive went to the police and a joint decision was taken not to do anything, so the flag remained at the top of the mast. Just before Christmas, another threat was sent and, on police advice, the company lowered the flag.

A policeman posing as a company employee was given telephoned instructions from a man with an Asian-sounding voice, not Quintas. The final letter instructed the company to send an employ-

ee with £170,000 in cash to a telephone box. The same voice told him to go to a lay-by on the M25. He followed further messages until he found a checked bag behind a crash barrier on the M23 near Gatwick.

The policeman left £10,000 in the bag before driving off. His colleagues arrested Quintas as he emerged from some trees and began pulling the bag towards him. He burst into tears and said: "I know I shouldn't have done it."

Doctors dismissive of allergy therapies

BY NIGEL HAWKES

FALSE and misleading claims about treatments for allergies can cause serious harm and can delay proper treatment, a report from the Royal College of Physicians claims.

Of the alternative therapies offered for the treatment of allergies, only hypnosis, acupuncture or herbal medicines get even half-hearted endorsement from the committee that prepared the report. Other therapies have yet to prove their worth in proper controlled trials. Dame Margaret Turner-Warwick, college president, said. Many conventional treatments were also "not as scientifically proven as they should be". The only way to be sure that the diagnostic tests and the therapies were effective was to subject them all to the same careful examination, she said.

Supporters of alternative therapies objected to the report. The British Society for Nutritional Medicine accused the college of "scientific misconduct" and said that the report lacked objectivity, integrity and comprehensiveness. "It is a consensus statement by a group of self-selected academics, independent of available data, that does not serve the interests of patients well," a statement by doctors Stephen Davies and Damien Downing on behalf of the society said.

Professor Barry Kay, of the Royal Brompton National Heart and Lung Institute, a member of the committee, said that several methods of diagnosis and treatment offered by allergy clinics had not been validated, but he declined to recommend that people should avoid them. "The ultimate decision is the patient's. We are not making didactic recommendations."

The committee's report says that claims for acupuncture are "not based on results of well-performed clinical trials". The report is dismissive of homeopathy ("no adequate evidence"), clinical ecology ("inadequate evidence"), ionisation ("need for proper trials") and the technique known as enzyme potentiated desensitisation ("not substantiated"). The committee makes clear that these criticisms are made only in the context of allergy, and not for other conditions that may be treated by these techniques.

The danger of unconventional therapies, the committee concludes, is that potentially serious problems can be missed. "By recommending unhealthy diets, reinforcing obsessional behaviour or encouraging social isolation, considerably more harm can be caused," the report says. Vulnerable people should be warned that some laboratories and practitioners use controversial procedures.

Brain monitors will keep pilots alert

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

CIVILIAN pilots could soon be wearing helmets containing electrodes to monitor their brain patterns and to warn them if they are falling asleep or failing to respond to emergency signals.

The monitoring system is being developed by British Aerospace and the Cranfield Institute of Technology. Alan Smyth, of British Aerospace, told a Guild of Air Pilots and Navigators seminar in London yesterday that it could change the way in which pilots used their instruments.

"It is based on the fact that the brain's electrical activity changes in response to events," he said. Two electrodes attached to the pilot's hat would monitor where he was looking and whether he was responding to signals. "Onset of the patterns associated with low arousal and sleep could then be used to trigger alerts to the crew," he said.

In another development, aircraft, particularly supersonic jets, would have instruments displayed by hologram on the windshield enabling the pilot to keep his head up rather than have to look down

at the instruments, the seminar was told.

However, experts from Boeing, NASA and Aerospace said that future flight decks would probably be little different from present ones and much would still depend on the flight crew, in spite of technology allowing more automation.

"What will continue to play a stabilising role is the faith and trust that the flying public places in those who pilot commercial airplanes and their insistence that they would prefer to place themselves in the hand of a human rather than a machine," Curtis Graeber, of the Boeing flight deck research department, said.

"The aviation industry in the 21st century will find itself depending more, not less on the flight crew. Humans possess unique capabilities that provide distinct advantages for airlines in a competitive, high-technology environment. They are extremely flexible, intelligent and motivated and they rarely require a mechanic."

Air show, page 15

Drug companies accused of cheating the Third World

MULTINATIONAL pharmaceutical and seed companies are using increasingly sophisticated tactics to plunder plants in the developing world, an international conference in London was told yesterday.

Henk Hobbelen, a Dutch agronomist and founder of the charity Genetic Resources Action International, based in Barcelona, Spain, said that such companies had recognised the need for not only collecting genetically unique plants but also acquiring centuries-old cultivation knowledge of local people.

"They do not just send biologists when they go to the local villages, but also anthropologists," Mr Hobbelen said. "This means they bring back the seeds and all the valuable local farming knowledge."

Such genetic expeditions, for agriculturally and medicinally promising plants, were helping to increase the profits of the multinationals while forming the base for the growth of the biotechnology, industry, which sought to add new genes to crops to create strains with novel and profitable properties.

Mr Hobbelen, speaking at Gene Traders, a two-day conference, said that most of the globe's genetic diversity was in the developing world, where farmers continue to

The West is accused of failing to play fair over developing nations' farming skills, reports Nick Nuttall

develop crop strains to meet harsh conditions. For example, the world's coffee crop, based on a single plant taken from east Africa several centuries ago, was kept healthy by occasional infusions of coffee strains from Ethiopia. In Turkana, northern Kenya, nomads had developed a variety of crops to suit their needs and unique ecological niches, including a variety of sorghum that grew in hollows and matured in 62 days after a single rainfall.

Mr Hobbelen said that some multinationals compensated local people property and also gave developing countries royalties on new crops or drugs developed. These payments could help to conserve plants, cultures and local farming practices that promoted genetic diversity of plant species, which would, in turn, assist the vitality of the developed world's agriculture.

"In general, however, it is a rip-off for local people, with companies paying pea-

nuts... a few hundreds of pounds," Mr Hobbelen said. He contrasted that with studies showing that the contribution of wheat genes, originally from the developing world, to the health and productivity of the American crop alone amounted to over \$3 billion (£1.7 billion) a year.

The conference, staged by Intermediate Technology, a charity whose patron is the Prince of Wales, and the New Economics Foundation, comes in the run-up to the Earth Summit of the UN Conference on Environment and Development, in Brazil, in June. It has brought together agricultural experts, relief agencies and representatives of developing nations, and comes during multilateral negotiation of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

Dorothy Myers, of Oxfam, said that the outcome of the GATT and the summit would be crucial for the developing world and the maintenance of diversity of plant species. In the GATT talks, developed nations hope to get support for patenting novel life forms made by genetic engineering. Such patents will make it hard for farmers in the developing world to freely re-sow seeds carrying patented genetic material originally from their regions.



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مكتبة المنهج

Childhood cancer study launched

Teachers criticise coursework as incentive to cheat

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

DELEGATES to a teachers' union conference yesterday said that coursework for GCSE and A level was damaging standards and encouraging cheating.

Disagreement over the role of coursework split the Assistant Masters and Mistresses Association as one delegate disclosed that three GCSE candidates had escaped penalty for "slavishly" copying a project from a classmate.

Jeremy Cole, a mathematics teacher from Northamptonshire, said that the Midlands Examining Group had taken no action when the three pupils were reported. They and the pupil they had copied from had been awarded the same grades.

Linden Adams, a member of the association's executive and an English teacher whose GCSE pupils are assessed entirely through coursework, opposed limits on the proportion of coursework counting towards the qualification. She said that two or three pupils in every class were saved from failure by being able to do their best work without pressure.

The association, meeting at Solihull, West Midlands, eventually supported the principle of coursework, providing it accounted for a minority of marks. Ministers have approved limits on the amount of non-examination work counting towards

GCSE. The School Examinations and Assessment Council has proposed similar restrictions for A level.

Miss Adams said that fewer than 100 out of one million entries were scrutinised by GCSE examination boards for malpractice. Mr Cole said that his school had written a second time to question the examining group's decision on the pupils who had copied their project. The work accounted for 7.5 per cent of the marks in mathematics.

The examining group denied receiving correspondence from the school. It said coursework was processed only if authenticated by a teacher as a pupil's own work.

Roy Nettleship, of Wilford Meadows Comprehensive, Nottingham, said that some teachers were correcting spelling and punctuation, and even redrafting pupils' work. Candidates were being awarded grades that they could not achieve in examinations.

John Douglas, who has taught for 36 years at the Royal Grammar School, Newcastle upon Tyne, said: "Coursework is ideological nonsense and one of the most divisive developments to hit us in education over the last few years. It has caused the abandonment of high standards." Children of "interested and pushy" parents were bound to produce better

coursework than many from deprived homes.

John Parkinson, of Don Valley High School, in Scawthorpe, South Yorkshire, said that the new limits in mathematics would discriminate against girls. Courses with a higher proportion of coursework had helped to correct an imbalance between the sexes.

Peter Smith, the association's general secretary, said the debate showed there was a deep rift in the profession, but none of the delegates would want the examining boards to be less than strict.

The association supported the original limits on coursework proposed by the assessment council, which would have allowed up to 70 per cent of GCSE marks to be awarded outside examinations. The new restrictions, to be applied in 1994, will set a maximum of 30 per cent, except in technology, where the limit will be 60 per cent.



Mournful notes: Madeleine Mitchell yesterday rehearsing *Quadruple Elegy* at the Amadeus Centre, west London, prior to its world premiere at the Queen Elizabeth Hall tomorrow. The concerto, by Piers Hellawell, recalls the deaths of ordinary people during the recent upheavals in eastern Europe

Enquiry called into freeing of knife man

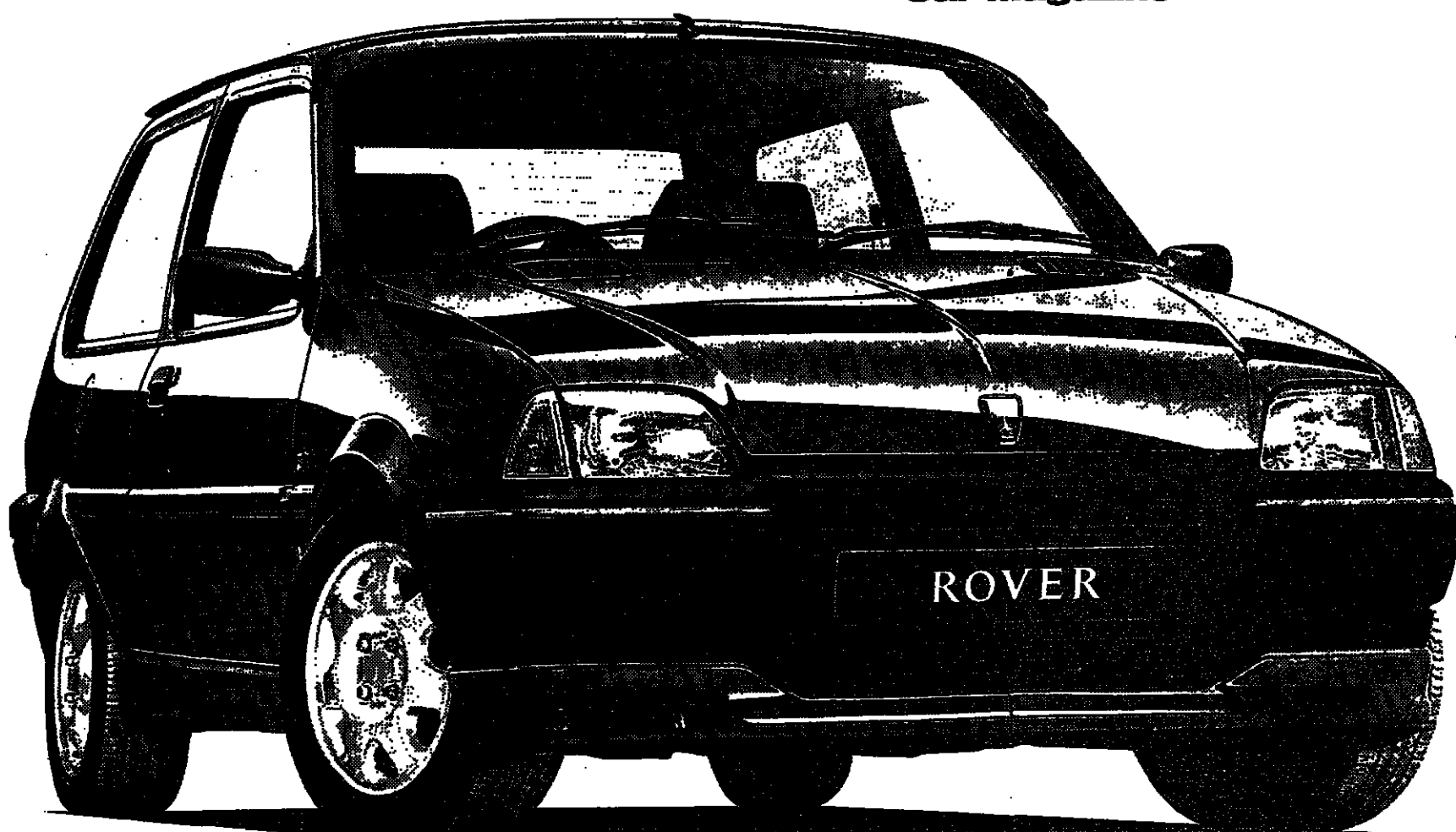
A MAN freed from a secure hospital in 1990 was sentenced to life imprisonment yesterday for the attempted murder of a social worker. The judge ordered an enquiry into why the man was freed.

Frank Snowden, 51, of Cottingham, West Yorkshire, was held in Rampton hospital, Nottinghamshire, for 17 years after trying to murder his three-month-old son. He was freed after doctors believed that he was cured. Leeds crown court was told.

Mr Justice Ognall said medical reports showed that Snowden was untroubled. "Public interest requires a scrupulous investigation into the circumstances leading to the release of this man." Snowden, who admitted attempted murder, stabbed Linda Atkins in the shoulder last November, and severed tendons on her fingers, Peter Hunt, for the prosecution, said. Snowden thought that he was not being given the right help at a therapy group. Malcolm Swift, QC, for the defence, said that Snowden was unable to cope with life in the outside world.

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Power firm gives crows the push

By KERRY GILL

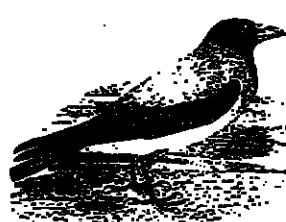
THE hooded crows that make their homes on the northern Orkney Islands, where trees are few and far between, have run into new problems in their search for nesting sites - sticky gel and plastic spikes.

For years, islanders have had to put up with power cuts in April and May caused by crows nesting on electricity poles. Yesterday Hydro-Electric, which covers northern Scotland, sent out workers to apply sticky gel and strips of plastic spikes to the tops of poles to try to deter the birds. Power was cut off to more than 1,000 homes while work was underway.

The hooded crow, or hoodie, builds its nest from anything it can find - twigs, plastic, nails, tin cans, barbed wires and other scrap metal. The nests can be so big that they hide the electrical equipment. The power cuts result from damage caused mainly by the scrap metal.

Hydro-Electric said that during the nesting season it was spending about £2,000 a week fixing power cuts or shooting birds away. The crows would argue that, since the islands are largely devoid of trees, they have nowhere else to nest.

Among the deterrents being tested by Hydro-Electric is "hot foot gel", a



Cut off: the hooded crow, or hoodie sticky substance that is painted on top of transformers. "When the crow lands, it has a sinking feeling and hopefully flies off," Hydro-Electric said. "This is the first time we have used it." The results will be assessed in mid-June.

The company also hopes that the plastic spikes on top of poles will stop crows from landing. Another solution may be to put up dummy poles close to real ones to try to hoodwink the birds. Hydro-Electric is also devising a type of insulated rod that can remove nests while the line is live. That is thought likely to be the most effective solution.

The "hoodie" or "corbie" is closely related to the carrion crow and feeds off grouse chicks and partridges. Courtship rituals include a 15ft leap into the air and an attractive bow with wings and tail outstretched during courtship - an elegant habit lost on exasperated Orkney islanders.

THE CABINET

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Attorney-general
Solicitor-general
Lord-advocate
Solicitor-general for Scotland
Under Secretary of State

Sir Nicholas Lyell

Derek Spencer

Alan Rodger

Thomas Dawson

National Heritage
Secretary of State
Under Secretary of State

David Mellor

Robert Key

Northern Ireland Office
Secretary of State
Ministers of State

Sir Patrick Mayhew

Michael Mates

Robert Atkins

Jeremy Hanley

Under Secretaries of State

Privy Council Office
Lord President of the Council and Leader of the Commons
Lord Privy Seal and Leader of the House of Lords
Minister for the Civil Service

Tony Newton

John Wakeham

Robert Jackson

Scottish Office
Secretary of State
Minister of State
Under Secretaries of State

Ian Lang

Lord Fraser of Carmyllie

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton

Allan Stewart

Sir Hector Monro

Social Security
Secretary of State
Minister for Social Security and Disabled People
Under Secretaries of State

Peter Lilley

Nicholas Scott

Alistair Burt

Ann Widdecombe

Lord Henley

Trade and Industry
Secretary of State
Ministers of State

Michael Heseltine

Tim Eggar

Richard Needham

Tim Sainsbury

Edward Leigh

Minister for Trade
Under Secretary of State
for Industry and Consumer Affairs
Under Secretaries of State

Neil Hamilton

Lady Denton of Wakefield

Transport
Secretary of State
Minister of State
Minister for Public Transport
Under Secretaries of State

John MacGregor

The Earl of Caithness

Roger Freeman

Treasury
Prime Minister, First Lord of the Treasury and Minister for the Civil Service
Chancellor of the Exchequer
Chief Secretary
Financial Secretary
Paymaster General
Economic Secretary

John Major

Norman Lamont

Michael Portillo

Stephen Dorrell

Sir John Cope

Anthony Nelson

Welsh Office
Secretary of State
Minister of State
Under Secretary of State

David Hunt

Sir Wyn Roberts

Gwilym Jones

Whips
House of Commons
Parliamentary Secretary, Treasury (Government Chief Whip)
The names of the other whips will be announced later today.

Richard Ryder

The prime minister receives a salary of £76,234. The Lord Chancellor receives £106,750 and the Lord Privy Seal £50,555. Other Cabinet ministers receive £63,047. In the Commons, ministers of state receive £51,402 and under secretaries of state £44,611. The Attorney-general receives £65,541 and the Solicitor-general £57,922. The chief whip receives £36,369, the deputy £31,402, and all other government whips receive £41,357.

In the Lords, Cabinet ministers receive £50,555. Ministers of state receive £44,945 and under secretaries £37,689. The chief whip receives £44,945, the deputy £37,689 and other whips £33,982. The Lord Advocate receives £50,638.

DEPARTMENTS OF STATE AND MINISTERS

Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
Minister
Minister of State
Parliamentary Secretaries

John Gummer

David Curry

Earl Howe

Nicholas Soames

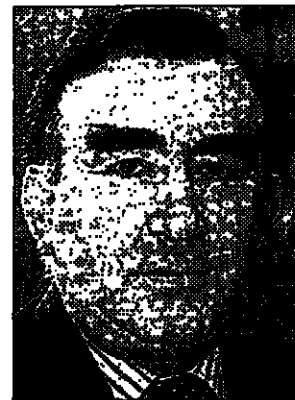
Major rewards talent from all sides of the party



Nicholas Soames, a grandson of Sir Winston Churchill, joins the department where his father, the late Lord Soames, was minister in the early 1960s.

After stints as a parliamentary private secretary, it looked as though his chance for promotion had passed after nearly nine years in the Commons. It had seemed that, with his Edwardian appearance, loud socks and even louder laugh, Mr Soames was too much of a card for government. His appointment will be very popular in the Commons, since he is no aristocratic dilettante but an assiduous attender and participant.

His immediate task when he appears at agriculture questions will be to be taken seriously as a minister rather than indulged as an amiable and jovial backbencher character. He is likely to be a solid rather than sparkling performer, one of the mainstays of the parliamentary party who can be counted upon for his loyalty in a crisis.



Michael Mates's entry into the government at the age of 37 is a reward for the Hampshire East MP's long-standing support for Michael Heseltine. During the former defence secretary's wilderness years, Mr Mates remained one of his most loyal disciples. He came into his own in the summer of 1990, assiduously canvassed support for his champion.

Mr Mates was not at hand for the denouement. He was abroad when John Major decisively won the second ballot, prompting speculation that Mr Heseltine might have done better had his chief lieutenant been at hand. He was pursuing his other abiding Westminster interest, his chairmanship of the defence select committee. He was in the Gulf, enquiring into the readiness of British forces for the battle with Saddam Hussein.

Mr Mates pursued a military career before entering Parliament in 1974, rising to lieutenant-colonel in the Queen's Dragoon Guards.



The omission of Nigel Forman, from successive ministerial shuffles over the past few years has surprised many at Westminster when several apparently less talented politicians have secured top posts. But after 16 years in the Commons, he has become an under-secretary at the education department.

A former parliamentary private secretary to Douglas Hurd and Nigel Lawson, he has been the intellectual in politics, with his own view on the issues of the day. He is a popular figure, although at times a loner, which may explain why he has had to wait so long for promotion.

A One Nation Tory, Mr Forman, 49, was never identified with the wets and was seldom an open rebel. He has played a leading part in debates on economic policy, the environment and, most recently, on Western help for the new democracies in central Europe. He has lectured at Essex University and written about the workings of British politics.



Jonathan Aitken's promotion is very late recognition for one of the Tories' most talented but highly individualistic MPs.

At 49, he gets his first government post after years of being studiously ignored by Margaret Thatcher. He has been highly critical of government secrecy and opposed Mrs Thatcher's cherished Channel tunnel project. He first distinguished himself at a Tory party conference in the 1960s when, almost singlehandedly, he appeared to swing representatives in favour of the leadership's Rhodesia policy.

A journalist, he was front page news himself in 1971 when he was acquitted of charges under the Official Secrets Act for prompting an "exclusive" story for the *Sunday Telegraph* about a secret government report on Biafra. He was a founder director of TV-am and on one occasion Anna Ford, the television presenter, poured a glass of wine over him after she was sacked from the station.



Stephen Dorrell's career shows how youthful rebels become part of the mainstream.

Aged 40, he has spent nearly 13 years in the Commons and has climbed the ladder of preference over three terms: up to 1983 as a prominent "wet", defying the whips over immigration and economic policy; then four years as parliamentary private secretary to Peter Walker when he was energy secretary; and after the June 1987 election as a whip for three years and, after 1990, as under-secretary at the health department.

Initially, he was never quite taken seriously because of his youth and for a long time he was associated with Mr Walker rather than treated as an independent figure. Since 1987, he has demonstrated intelligence and determination, notably in recent debates over the health service. While taking longer than his contemporaries to rise to the middle ranks of the government, he still has youth on his side.



Michael Forsyth's escape from the Scottish Office gives one of the most Thatcherite of John Major's junior ministers the chance to shine on the national stage.

Mr Forsyth, who hung onto his Stirling seat with a majority of 703, has had a bumpy ride since 1987. He fell out with Malcolm Rifkind, his centrist Scottish secretary, and with much of the Scottish Conservative party, only to be appointed its chairman by Margaret Thatcher. Her thinking was that Scotland, the part of the country that proved most resistant to her medicine, would benefit from a strong draught of the real thing. The result was a revolt of the Conservative lairds and the dismissal of Mr Forsyth after only a year in the job.

Mr Forsyth, a graduate of St Andrews University, was a chairman of the Federation of Conservative Students in the mid-1970s and a member of Westminster council until 1983 and his election to the Commons.



John Redwood, aged 40, the new environment minister of state, epitomises intellectual Thatcherism in practice. He is the ultimate dry, both in views and style.

As an adviser, as a banker and as a minister, he has pressed for changes to spread property ownership, summed up in his book *Popular Capitalism*. A fellow of All Souls, he was involved in banking and writing about economic and industrial policy before heading Mrs Thatcher's policy unit in Downing Street from 1983 to 1985.

After entering the Commons for Wokingham in 1987, he was, within two years, made under-secretary for corporate affairs, responsible for the City in the department of trade and industry. He became a minister of state there in 1990 and has had a role in regulation of the City and proposals to widen share ownership. Although regarded as clever, he can seem cold, a man for government rather than the hustings.

Sleeping children killed in house fire

Two sisters and their brother died when fire swept through their home as they slept in an upstairs room yesterday.

The children were Neesha Patel, 9, her sister, Neha, 8 months, and the girls' brother Pritesh, 7. Their mother raised the alarm when the fire started in the sitting room of the house in Forest Gate, east London, as she cooked breakfast in the kitchen just after 6am. Her husband escaped through an upstairs window.

A fireman, Kevin Everett, 25, badly burned his neck, forearm and back while fighting the fire. His condition was said to be serious but stable.

London Fire Brigade said that the fire had damaged the upper floor of the two-storey house, the staircase and half the ground floor. Police said that they were not sure how it had started, but there were no suspicious circumstances.

Shop challenge

Broadland district council is seeking a High Court injunction to stop the National Trust opening a gift shop and plant centre at Blickling Hall, Norfolk, on Sundays. It is sending 19 businesses writs alleging illegal Sunday trading.

Cruelty case

Magistrates adjourned for 14 days a case in which Jerry Farrell, 28, of Stafford, admitted cruelty to a captive gerbil said to have died when thrown into a deep fryer full of hot oil. Robert Chadwick, for the defence, said: "Certain aspects of the case need examining further."

Search ends

An air-sea search for David Smith, 7, of Woolacombe, Devon, who was swept to sea from rocks near Barmouth beach in north Devon, on Monday was called off yesterday.

Rabies scare

A dog that jumped ship at Newport, Gwent, starting a rabies scare, has been declared healthy and returned to its owner, the captain of a Croatian freighter, three weeks after being impounded.

Spire danger

The 225ft crooked spire of All Saints' Church, Hereford, is to be taken down and rebuilt straight because of the risk of crumbling masonry.

Hard left fails to take NUS post

BY MATTHEW D'ANCONA, EDUCATION REPORTER

A STRONG bid by the hard left for the presidency of the National Union of Students was narrowly defeated yesterday at the union's spring conference at Blackpool, as Liberal Democrat delegates threw in their lot with the official Labour candidate.

Lorna Fitzsimons, for Labour, was elected national president, defeating Janine Booth, the Left Unity candidate, by 437 votes to 383 in a contest resolved in the third round of a single transferable vote. Miss Booth was ahead in the second round after three candidates dropped out, but was defeated by the transfer of Liberal Democrat votes to Miss Fitzsimons on the final count. Ian Pigg, a Liberal Democrat, was elected secretary, unseating the Labour incumbent by a small margin.

Miss Fitzsimons, 24, said that her election proved that the union was capable of responsible decision-making. "It shows there is a future for the students back reform and they back honesty."

She said that, as a dyslexic, she was well placed to appreciate the need to widen access to further and higher education for the disabled, as well

as mature and part-time students, who were ill-served by existing structures.

She faces the difficult task of persuading John Patten, the new education secretary, not to impose individual membership upon the union, which is a federation of college unions and financed by their block payments. Student hardship will be high on her agenda.

Her election is an important victory for the reformist wing of the union, which will now push hard for decentralisation and a student consultative committee to negotiate directly with government funding councils.

The brew of political and educational issues under discussion at this week's conference has been familiar. South Africa, employment and training, abortion, and feminism. But the style of debate has changed as the traditional shrieking matches give way to a more efficient and orderly use of time.

Lewis Robinson, a Tory Reform Group delegate, said he hoped that Conservatives would be encouraged by the changes to return to the union. "Until we go back into the national union, we haven't any role to play



Close call: Lorna Fitzsimons, the NUS president

Aberdour is broke, judge says

THE hospital charity swindler "Lady" Rosemary Aberdour no longer faces an increased prison sentence, now that a court has been told that she does not have money to pay.

The Central Criminal Court was told yesterday that an international company, named as Barry Edward Gray, had said that the bogus "Lady" Aberdour had funds overseas and was not penniless, as she had claimed.

However, Mr Justice Leonard, who had said that he would increase Aberdour's four-year sentence if he discovered that she did have money, said that he was satisfied that Mr Gray's allegations were untrue.

Brendan Finucane, who acted for the prosecution at Aberdour's trial, said that Mr Gray specialised in various "stings" in Britain and abroad. "He carefully researches his stories and picks up trivial details which give substance to his convoluted and bogus stories," he said.

Aberdour was jailed last month for stealing more than £2 million from the development foundation of the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery, of which she was a deputy director.

Village shops to receive rate cuts

BY DOUGLAS BROOM
LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

THE village shop, long an endangered species, will be given new protection from the uniform business rate by a council in Hampshire.

Test Valley borough council will reduce rate bills by up to four fifths to help rural shops and post offices to stay in business during the recession. To qualify, shopkeepers will have to produce their accounts to prove that they are in financial difficulties and demonstrate their importance to the villages they serve.

Other councils have granted rebates to small businesses suffering financial hardship but Test Valley is thought to be the first to introduce a scheme specifically designed to protect village shops. Guidelines issued by the council say that the scheme's main intention is to help general stores and sub-post offices that are the only shops for people in isolated villages.

Peter Giddings, the council treasurer, said: "The law allows us to grant rebates in cases of hardship but only if it is in the interest of the community charge payers at large. We consider that saving the only shop in a village from closure is in the interest

of charge payers in the Test Valley, where many villagers would find it impossible to travel to a town to go shopping."

John Morgan, a Conservative councillor who supported the scheme, said that many village shops were being crippled by the business rate. "We wanted to do something to help them and help people living in small villages," he said.

At Wetherell, four miles outside Andover, Lydia Knight, who runs the village stores and post office with her husband Brian, is considering applying for a rebate. "I don't think we would qualify for the full 80 per cent but like everyone else we are finding that times are hard. We are the only shop in the village and everyone around here relies on us, especially the retired folk," she said.

As well as selling the daily necessities, the shop's post office counter pays pensions and child benefit and acts as the village bank. If it closed, villagers without cars would have to use the two buses a day that go to Andover.

Last February the Federation of Small Businesses criticised councils for failing to help small companies in trouble.

Time running out as defiant Libya awaits ostracism

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN CAIRO

LIBYANS will almost certainly find themselves ostracised and isolated by the world community when they wake up this morning. United Nations-imposed air, trade and diplomatic sanctions against Tripoli were coming into effect in the early hours of this morning because of its failure to surrender two agents accused of the Lockerbie bombing.

Libya had earlier hoped that its two legal actions against Britain and America at the International Court of Justice in The Hague, might help to undermine the threat of global action. In both rulings, however, the judges voted 11-5 against Tripoli and upheld the security council's decision to punish Colonel Muammar Gaddafi, the Libyan leader.

A compromise put forward by the Arab League, whereby the two Libyan agents accused of blowing up Pan Am flight 103 would be handed over to Malta, was also expected to be turned down by America, Britain and France, who insist that the Libyan leader is attempting to wriggle out of the demands set out under security council resolution 731.

The resolution demands that Libya should surrender the two suspects for trial either in Britain or the United States, and hand over to France four additional Libyan agents wanted for questioning about the 1989 bombing of a UTA airliner over Niger. Under the follow-up resolution 748, all international air links will be cut with Libya, arms sales will be banned and Libyan diplomatic missions abroad will be trimmed down, together with foreign embassies in Tripoli.

In Tripoli and across the country yesterday Libyans were left in little doubt about the imminent confrontation as Colonel Gaddafi cut all communications and travel links with the outside world. In a day of self-imposed isolation marking the anniversary of the 1986 US air strike against Tripoli and Benghazi which left 41 people dead.

The move was seen as an attempt to win sympathy for Libya's case with fellow Muslim and Arab states, where anti-Western sentiment could be inflamed throughout the region if the showdown becomes a military conflict.

Western officials, however, have made clear that at this stage there are no plans to use force against Libya, and observers point out that the UN sanctions will have little serious effect on either Colonel Gaddafi's ability to run his regime or the functioning of the country's economy.

Court decision, page 1



Gaddafi: ordered day of isolation for Libya

Italy puts pressure on Tripoli

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

DEFENCE planners in Rome yesterday were studying how the Italian air force will enforce the air embargo against Libyan aircraft. At the same time the government increased diplomatic pressure on Libya to guarantee the security of its embassy in Tripoli.

Abdurrahman Shalgam, the head of the Libyan People's Bureau in Rome, was summoned by Bruno Bottai, the Italian foreign ministry secretary-general. He was asked for assurances that the 1,500 Italians in Libya would be protected.

In Tripoli, Giorgio Testori, the Italian ambassador, asked the Libyan foreign ministry to reinforce the police cordon around his embassy compound, which also contains the small British-interest section. According to Italian newspapers, Signor Testori told Libyan officials: "We know that you organise everything. We don't want anything getting out of hand."

The Italian defence ministry said it was examining how the Italian Air Force would deal with enforcing the embargo against any Libyan civil aircraft that stray into Italian air space.

"The greatest difficulty will be in using our fighter jets to make the embargo respected," a defence ministry official said. "International laws and norms on the interception of civil airliners are unclear. What is sure is that, both morally and practically, one cannot force a civilian airliner to land. The most that could be allowed would be to fire warning shots."

"But even an action of that kind would be decidedly embarrassing, not only for our pilots but also for the air force that would have to give such an order. Military aircraft cannot have confrontations with civil airplanes."

Detectives widen Mandela enquiry

FROM GAVIN BELL IN JOHANNESBURG

POLICE in South Africa have widened their investigation into activities by Winnie Mandela to include alleged kidnapping and theft.

Detectives already investigating the alleged involvement of the estranged wife of Nelson Mandela, the president of the African National Congress, in two murders say they are questioning residents of Soweto about two incidents in 1988, when three people are said to have been abducted and assaulted at her home. One of the victims later disappeared.

At Mrs Mandela's trial on separate kidnap and assault charges last year, the state prosecutor was granted leave to lead "similar fact evidence" of the two incidents, but he did not do so. Two of those convicted with Mrs Mandela in that trial now say they gave false evidence to protect her, and this is believed to have prompted the new, wider investigation.

Mrs Mandela's appeal against a six-year prison sentence for kidnapping and being an accessory to assault is still pending. Whether or not further charges may be brought before it is heard remains unclear. Residents of Soweto interviewed by local

newspapers expressed relief that Mr Mandela had separated from his wife. Although she enjoyed support among young radicals, the activities of her entourage created anger and resentment in the community.

The Sowetan newspaper reflected a widespread sentiment in the township yesterday when it urged the ANC to relieve Mrs Mandela of her posts on its executive committee and as head of its social welfare department. One ANC activist said: "I have been finding it harder and harder to defend her in my branch. The general feeling is that she should retire from politics for a while, go and park in the shade, cool out."

Gill Marcus, the ANC spokeswoman, said: "The ANC has not taken a position on Mrs Mandela as things stand at the moment. She was head of welfare yesterday and is head today."

John Morgan and Xoliswa Fala, who were convicted and sentenced at the same time as Mrs Mandela last year, began incriminating her recently after a dispute over who would pay the costs of their appeal.

Leading article, page 13



Senior citizens: President Yang Shangkun of China, left, being greeted by President Kim, right, on his arrival in Pyongyang yesterday

Desolate Pyongyang lights up for Kim's birthday

Pyongyang: Huge flags and flashing neon billboards adorn North Korea's drab and desolate capital for today's celebrations marking the 80th birthday of "Great Leader" Kim Il Sung (Seigo Sakamoto writes).

Thousands of cheering residents in colourful national dress were lining the streets yesterday to welcome

foreign delegations — almost all from the Third World. For months North Koreans have been urged to beautify their country for the anniversary of "the hero of the Korean race". A Pyongyang official said: "This is going to be one of the biggest events ever celebrated by North Korea. It will parallel the February 16 celebrations marking the birthday of the Great Leader's son, Kim Jong Il."

President Kim, who has ruled his stalinist state unchallenged since 1948, turns 80 amid growing speculation about whether he will hand over to his son and anointed heir. The official press gave no hint of any early move. Instead, news-

papers were filled with lengthy tributes to the president. The celebrations will provide only temporary relief from North Korea's problems. Japanese experts say the country is suffering food and energy shortages. Most households are without electricity or even candles.

More than a thousand foreign visitors are expected to attend but President Yang Shangkun of China is the only senior representative from a world power. The demise of the Soviet Union deprived North Korea of its main ally. It is watching with unease the improvement of ties between China, its last important ally, and South Korea, its sworn enemy. (Reuters)

PEOPLE

Travolta announce first child

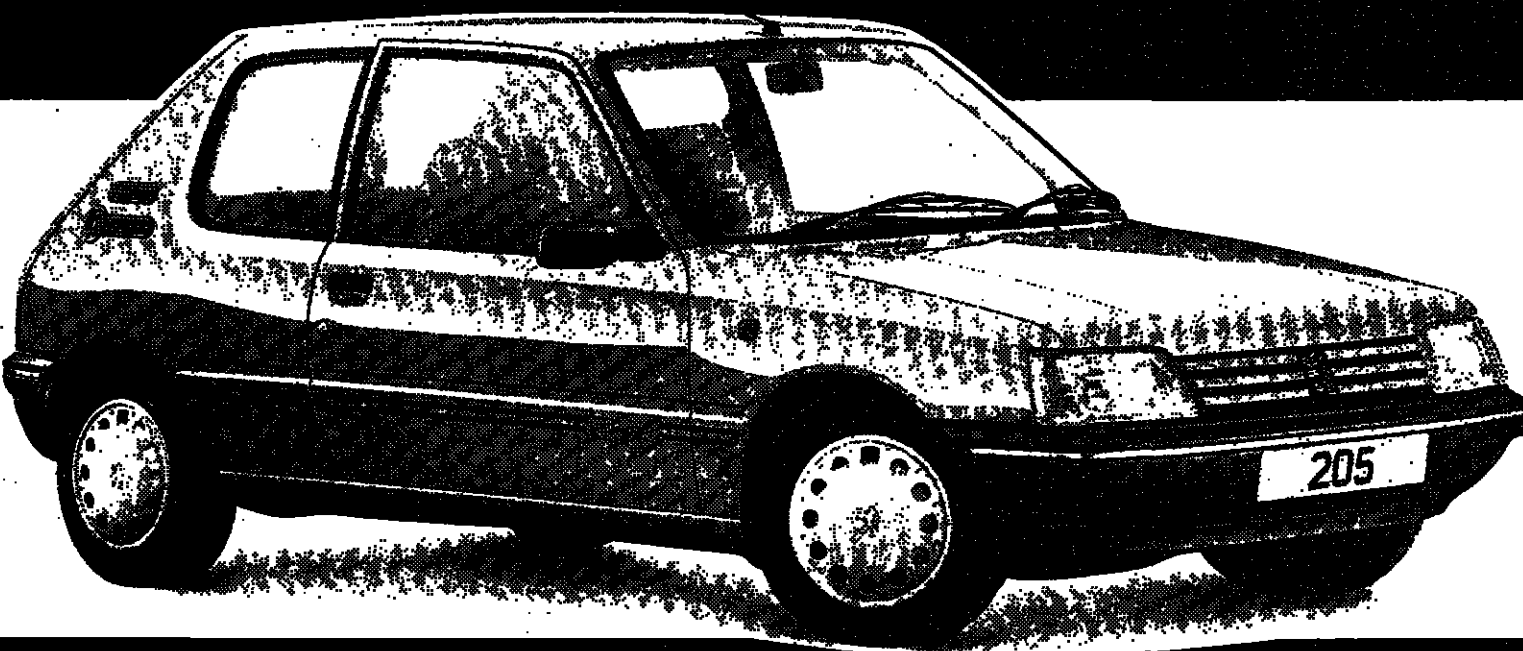
John Travolta, the television and film actor, and his wife, Kelly Preston, the actress, announced the birth of their first child, a son, named Jett, in hospital in Daytona Beach, Florida.

Taiwan, which has not enjoyed a visit by a world leader since 1967 because of its diplomatic rivalry with China, will roll out the red carpet for Margaret Thatcher and Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, the former French president, later this year.

Smokey Robinson was honoured at the first Motor City Music Awards for lifetime achievements that include soul singing and founding Motown records. Rocker Bob Seger was named musician of the year.

US officials will commemorate Christopher Columbus' New World voyages by issuing a stamp at Christiansted, St Croix in the US Virgin Islands, the first place he landed now under the American flag, a postal official said.

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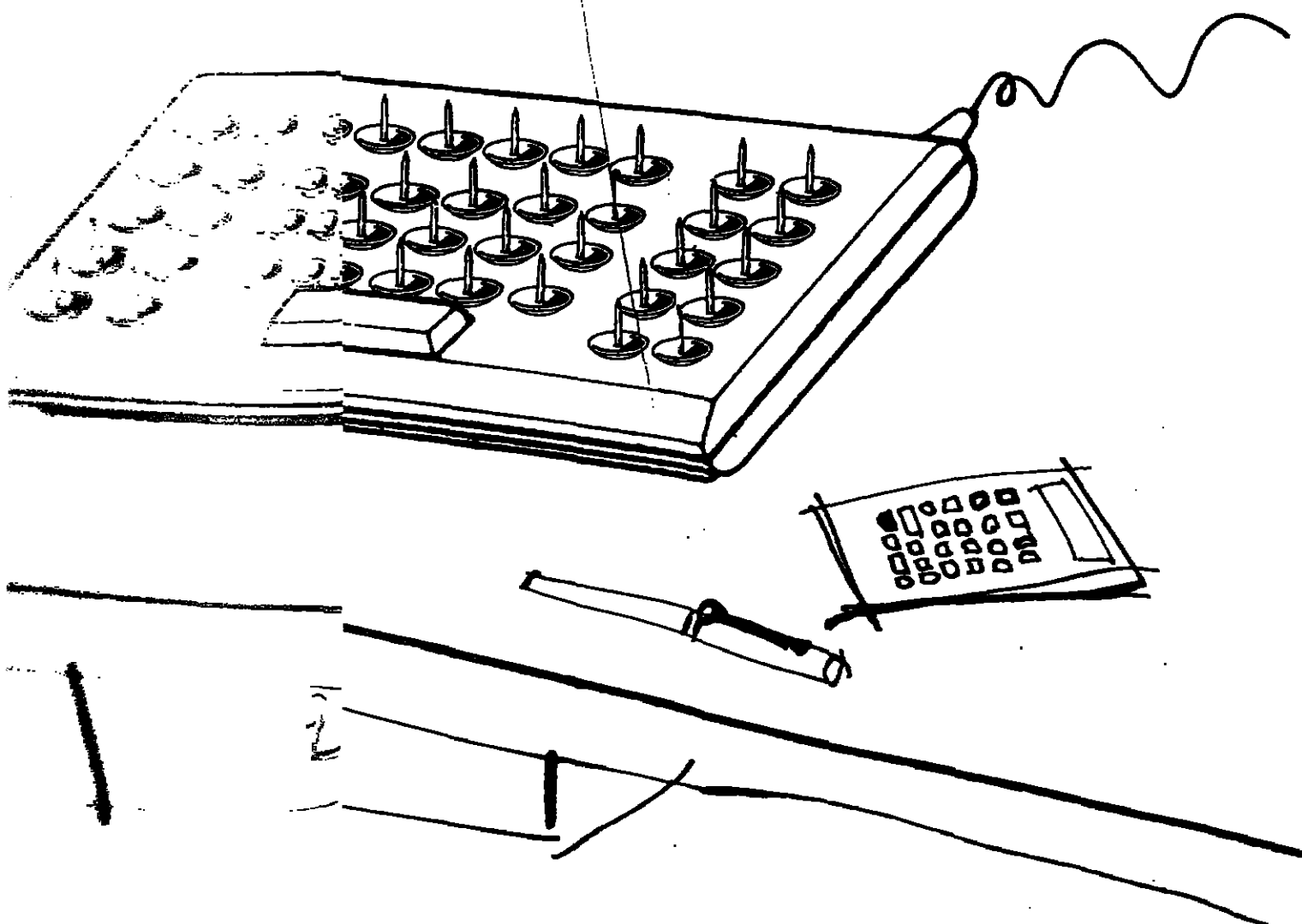
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Virginia win fails to stir voters

Clinton secures the unions' backing

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

BILL Clinton easily won the Virginia caucuses and is about to receive the official endorsement of America's trade union movement. But what these and other developments demonstrated most clearly yesterday was the joylessness of the Arkansas governor's apparently unstoppable slog towards the Democratic presidential nomination.

The day's by now almost statutory "disclosure" about Mr Clinton came from *The Washington Times*, which claimed that drug investiga-

tors had in 1984 secretly taped his brother Roger, at that time a cocaine addict, boasting that he often took women to the governor's mansion for sex. There was no suggestion that Mr Clinton had been aware of this, the report said.

Mr Clinton secured approximately 52 per cent of support in Virginia, where 78 convention delegates were at stake. Jerry Brown won 12 per cent. But the 36 per cent vote for an uncommitted slate reflected the general disen-

chantment with the choice available.

The AFL-CIO, representing 14 million union members, agreed formally to endorse Mr Clinton on May 5, placing a nationwide machine at his disposal. But the decision was inspired less by genuine enthusiasm than by the recognition that Democrats must start focusing on this autumn's general election battle with President Bush. Many trade unions had previously actively supported Mr Clinton's opponents because of his backing for a free trade agreement with low-wage Mexico and because Arkansas is a "right-to-work" state.

The AFL-CIO's endorsement follows that of Richard Gephardt, the Democratic House of Representatives leader, and shows the party beginning to coalesce behind Mr Clinton. But many are still holding back.

On Monday, Robert Casey, governor of Pennsylvania, which holds the next important primary on April 28, gave a warning that the party was ignoring voter unease with Mr Clinton "at its peril". He urged Democratic leaders to remain uncommitted until the July convention.

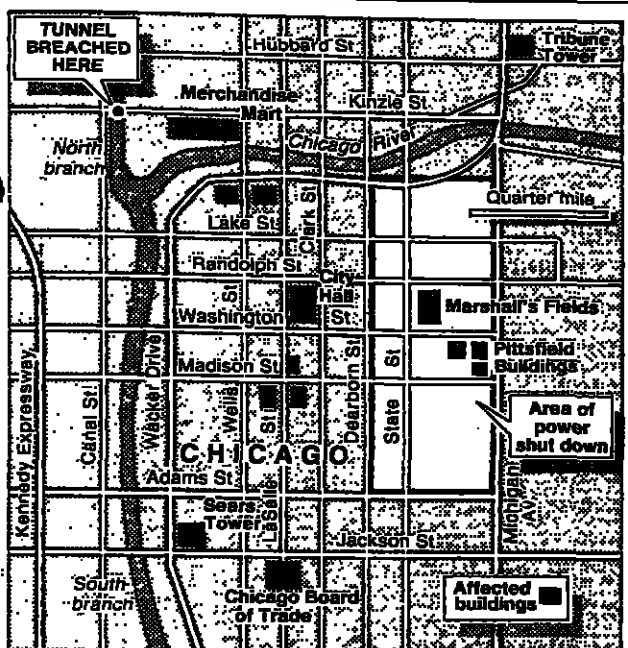
According to a new report from the Committee for the Study of the American Electorate, Mr Clinton and his fellow presidential candidates have inspired so little excitement in the electorate that voters have stayed away from the primaries in record numbers.

Turnout has fallen 18 per cent since 1988 in the Democratic primaries, and 4 per cent in the Republican contests. In key electoral states such as New York, Florida, Texas, Georgia and Tennessee, Democratic participation has reached new lows. Paul Tsongas, who has withdrawn from the race, said the figures should terrify the party.

Mr Bush has begun actively to court the Republican party's disaffected conservatives and to sharpen differences with the Democrats through blatantly political announcements. On Monday, suddenly exploiting a 1988 Supreme Court decision, he placed new conditions on the political funding activities of trade unions. Lane Kirkland, the AFL-CIO president, denounced the move as "obsequious pandering to the ultra-right wing".

Last Friday Mr Bush permitted Wisconsin and other states to start imposing conditions on those receiving social welfare.

Yesterday Mr Bush went to Michigan to court the sort of socially conservative blue-collar whites, badly hit by the recession, whose mass defection from the Democrats gave the Republicans their last three presidential victories.



Builders blamed for Chicago flood

FROM JAMIE DETTMER IN WASHINGTON

EMERGENCY workers in Chicago yesterday fought to drain the city's ageing tunnel system of the flood of muddy river water that forced an evacuation of the city centre and the closure of hundreds of shops and offices on Monday.

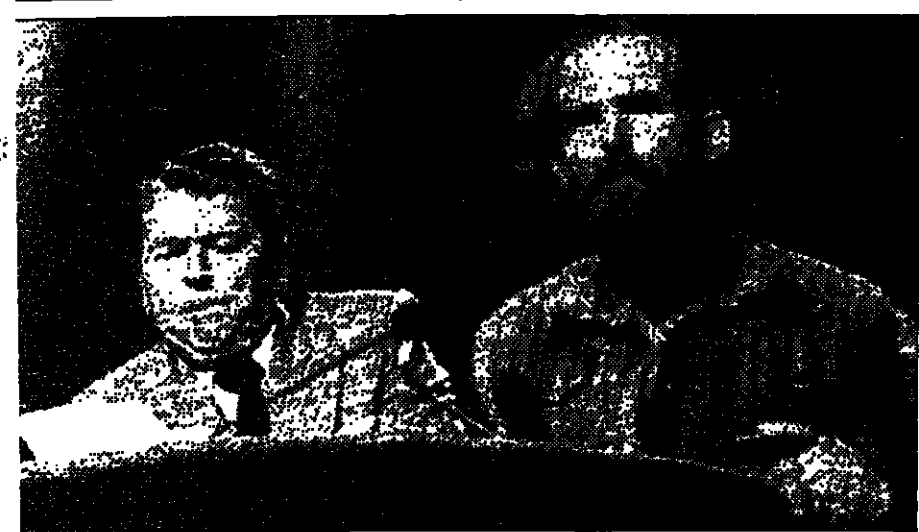
Electricity was still cut off yesterday in part of the city and the police were standing by to deter looters in the central shopping area. Businesses were told that it could take up to a week to drain the deluge which surged through old freight tunnels moneycombing the city's central district.

As building teams struggled to plug a car-size hole in the tunnel system late into Monday night, recriminations were flying between city authorities and building firms about who was to blame for the flood, which caused an abrupt halt to trading in one of the world's busiest financial districts.

Richard Daley, the mayor, said that the public works division had known of the

leak in the 45-mile tunnel system a week ago, adding: "Each and every one of those persons who had information will be held accountable to me and to the city of Chicago." The mayor and fire officers accused construction workers of knocking a hole in one of the tunnels when they sank piles into the Chicago riverbed a few weeks ago. The company responsible for sinking the piles countered by claiming that the city did not provide maps of the tunnels.

First signs of the flood came at dawn on Monday when a huge whirlpool was seen in the river near the Kinzie Street bridge. Within an hour, water had risen up to 30 feet in some offices. As water leaked into electricity sub-stations, power was cut. All of buildings in the central district were evacuated, including the Sears Tower, City Hall, the Board of Trade and the Chicago Mercantile Exchange. At the futuristic glass State of Illinois building, fish were found swimming in the basement.



Double act: Ronald Reagan is jostled by a man who leaped on to the podium, hit the former president and smashed a Las Vegas media trophy. Mr Reagan was unhurt

Peru wins sanctions reprieve

FROM JAMIE DETTMER IN WASHINGTON AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE Organisation of American States has stopped short of imposing economic sanctions on Peru. The grouping issued a condemnation of President Fujimori's decision to suspend Peru's constitution and dissolve its congress. In American foreign ministers at the meeting in Washington on Monday night agreed to send a high-level mission to Lima to urge the president to restore all constitutional rights and liberties. The resolution, passed by a 22-0 vote with Peru abstaining, was considerably weaker in tone than the resolution passed by the regional body in October after Haiti's elected government was toppled. This time the foreign ministers sought to "allow" for Peruvian parties to restore constitu-

tional order and to "exert pressure without suffocating" the troubled South American nation, a senior OAS diplomat said.

During the emergency meeting, James Baker, the American Secretary of State, rejected President Fujimori's argument that both the Peruvian congress and judiciary system were corrupt and that his government had no other option but to suspend the constitution. "You cannot destroy democracy in order to save it," said Mr Baker. "If Peru changes course, if constitutional democracy is restored, we can re-embrace the Peruvian nation and people, and work together in partnership to help Peru overcome its difficult problems," he said.

Mr Baker's message was repeated by foreign ministers

and ambassadors from several Latin American and Caribbean countries. All expressed understanding for the problems facing Peru.

Augusto Blacker Miller, the Peruvian foreign minister, said after the vote that he found the resolution "quite balanced". In the resolution, the ministers agreed to "greatly deplore the events that have taken place in Peru and to express the highest level of concern".

They appealed for "the immediate re-establishment of democratic institutional order in Peru." The OAS heard a speech from Maximo San Roman, who served as one vice-president in an earlier Fujimori government and who has repudiated him. Normally the OAS only hears from people in office.



Home from home: Princess Yasmin, the daughter-in-law of the late Shah Reza Pahlavi of Iran, with Princess Noor, her newborn daughter, in a Washington hospital room that was symbolically declared by the baby's proud father, Reza II, the shah's son, to be part of Iran's territory so that

she could be born in what he still considers to be his homeland. The shah's regime was toppled by followers of the late Ayatollah Khomeini in January 1979. Reza II, the claimant to the Peacock Throne in Tehran, who took the picture, has lived in exile in the West since his father's fall. (AP)

Mujahidin rebels seize town

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN KABUL

MUJAHIDIN fighters yesterday claimed that they had captured the strategic Afghan town of Charikar, less than 40 miles north of Kabul, the capital, dealing a severe blow to President Najibullah's already crumbling government. There were no indications that the army had fought back, suggesting that there has been a large-scale mutiny that could bode ill for United Nations peace efforts.

Charikar is on the only supply route from Kabul to the central Asian republics, which are a vital source of food and fuel. If the rebels decided to close the road, the implications for the capital, already short of food, could be grave.

That time is desperately short to save the country from anarchy is becoming increasingly apparent. The UN is rushing to piece together a modest power structure in Kabul to take over from Dr Najibullah before the end of the month. The latest developments, however, raise serious questions about the army's cohesion. If the military disintegrates, chaos could break out in government-held areas. Even Kabul would not be safe from incursions.

Waste pact is ratified after delay

Geneva: Three years after being adopted in Basle by 104 countries, the convention on control of transboundary movements of hazardous waste and its disposal has been ratified by the minimum of 20 countries necessary and will be in force from May 5 (Alan McGregor writes).

France is the only European Community signatory. Others are Sweden, Finland, Switzerland and Australia, but not yet Japan or America.

Muslims shot

Dhaka: After taking away their belongings and trying to seize five young women, Burmese troops fired on more than 500 Muslims trying to flee into Bangladesh, refugees in southeast Bangladesh said. Some refugees were beaten with rifle butts. (Reuters)

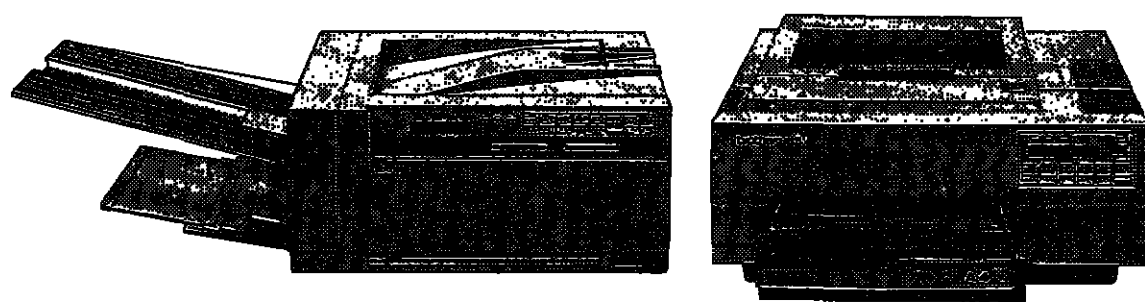
Timorese tried

Jakarta: The first of five trials of pro-independence activists has begun in East Timor. The charges relate to a brawl last October in which two people died. Police killed between 50-100 mourners at the funeral of one of the victims the following month. (AFP)

Ban decreed

Bogota: A Roman Catholic priest in a conservative Colombian town has decreed in an Easter message that sellers of condoms may not take communion or make confession, and said alcoholics and prostitutes should also not take the sacraments. (Reuters)

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Slippery slopes

Philip Howard asks who would live under a volcano

What sort of people live on the slopes of an active volcano? The same sort who have nowhere else to go, and who reckon that statistically they are more likely to die in a traffic accident (or in California and Sicily by a gun) than by a natural disaster. Some of these hazardous spots on the surface of the Earth are very attractive. The lower slopes of Etna are rich in vineyards, olive groves and orchards. The volcanic soil is so fertile that it often yields five harvests a year. For ten years it can be a Sicilian paradise in the shadow of its peak.

And then the mountain grows sick again. Yesterday the river of lava from Etna engulfed the first houses, after breaching the last barrier thrown up to protect the village of Zafferana on the eastern slope down to the sea. The owner watched his house destroyed, having set a table with a bottle of red wine at his front door to welcome the lava. If in a thousand years time archaeologists dig up his house again, they will find social history preserved in amber, though not as dramatically as the remains at Pompeii and Herculaneum, where the eruption of Vesuvius in AD 79 buried the towns 20 ft deep in less than 48 hours.

Our modern Sicilian icons of both the true Madonna and Madonna the chanteuse will be as confusing to our descendants as the business transactions recorded in the wax tablets of Lucius Caecilius Jucundus, a jocular name for the bank manager of Pompeii. The local football side of Catania may achieve a fame it never managed in its playing days, as the second-division provincial gladiators of Pompeii have done. Because this is a comparatively small eruption, its aftermath is unlikely to change the European imagination, as Pompeii did by inspiring the neoclassic style, and influencing artists as diverse as Piranesi and the Adams brothers. Josiah Wedgwood changed the pattern of his pottery, and renamed his factory "Etruria", under the misapprehension that Pompeii was Etruscan. I do not suppose we are going to get a wave of primitive Zafferana pottery in the year 3000, faithfully copied from the local tourist trash shop.

Etna was the senior and more famous volcano in antiquity. Its name comes from the Greek verb "to burn", just as the noun volcano comes from Vulcan, the Roman counterpart of the Greek god Hephaestus. He was the god of metallurgy, also known as Mulciber "the Softener", and was said to have his forge under Etna, where with the Cyclops he forged thunderbolts for Jupiter.

A part from Pompeii, Etna has had more frequent and more violent eruptions than Vesuvius. Pindar and Aeschylus refer to the eruption of 475 BC. In 396 BC, a well-timed eruption by Etna prevented the Carthaginian army from reaching Catania. The most violent historical eruption was in AD 1669 along a fissure which opened above the town of Nicolosi, about ten miles south of the path of the present lava flow. The lava then destroyed a dozen villages on the southern slope of Etna, and submerged the western part of the town of Catania. This was the first occasion on which men tried to divert a lava flow, with as little success as they are having so far three centuries later. At first the trench-digging worked. But 500 heavily armed men from a neighbouring village, who feared that the diverted lava stream might descend on them, prevented further work.

This is the 14th major eruption of Etna this century. So far there have been no deaths, and not much devastation. The owner of the first house to go under the lava yesterday had painted "Thank you, government" sarcastically on his wall. Nothing yet has happened as memorable as the death of the philosopher Empedocles, who, having resolved that all matter was made of permutations of the elements of earth, air, fire and water, threw himself into the fiery furnace of Etna. Academic rivals sneered that he wanted people to think that he was a god who had vanished off the face of the Earth. But the volcano foiled him, by spewing out one of his sandals, and demonstrating that he had died by his element of fire. Exaggerated no doubt, as stories in the contemporary tabloids were. But I still should not want to live on the lovely slopes of Etna. It is a grumpy old mountain.

Conor Cruise O'Brien says security must be the priority for the new Northern Ireland Secretary

Time to get tough in Ulster

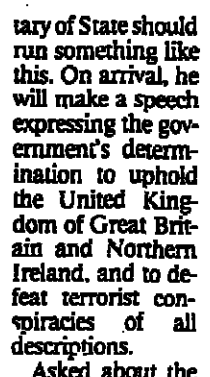
The replacement of Peter Brooke as Secretary of State for Northern Ireland looks like signalling a change of priorities in the province. Throughout his tenure, Peter Brooke put the quest for a political solution first and security second. The right priority is the other way round, as Mr Major may have been persuaded by the IRA bombs in London just after his electoral victory.

The political solution, Mr Brooke so diligently sought — a compromise between Unionist and Nationalist parliamentarians — is almost certainly unattainable, and certainly incapable, if temporarily attained, either of providing Northern Ireland with stable government, or of ending or even reducing the violence. Remember that the Anglo-Irish Agreement was supposed to bring about "the isolation of the men of violence", yet after more than six years under the agreement, there is a higher level of violence than there was before 1985. The IRA is now more capable than it was before of striking repeated blows at the heart of London, and the blows are getting heavier: one of last week's bombs was reported to be the heaviest ever exploded by the IRA. The kind of agreement Peter Brooke was looking for would have had no more beneficial effect than the Anglo-Irish Agreement has had.

Sir Patrick Mayhew is best known in Ireland for obdurate replies to various nationalist demands in the security field. The Dublin press registered "deep dismay" at his appointment, but Sir Patrick's unpopularity with the Nationalists will ensure for him a measure of popularity with the Unionists. And after all, in Northern Ireland last week, 56 per cent voted for parties supporting the Union (including the Conservative candidates), whereas only 33 per cent voted for the Nationalists (SDLP and Sinn Féin).

I believe John Major really wishes to strengthen the Union between Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and that he has appointed Sir Patrick Mayhew for that purpose. If so, Sir Patrick's first year as Secretary of State should run something like this. On arrival, he will make a speech expressing the government's determination to uphold the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and to defeat terrorist conspiracies of all descriptions.

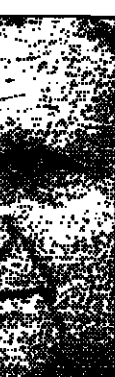
Asked about the Anglo-Irish Agreement, he will say that it remains in being, and that he hopes shortly to attend a meeting of the Anglo-Irish intergovernmental conference. Asked about the "Brooke talks", he will say that he is happy to preside over a continuation of these, assuming that all constitutional parties so wish. He will make it clear that whether the talks are to succeed or not is a matter for the parties themselves. If they succeed, well



Sir Patrick Mayhew: change of direction

and good. If they fail, he will continue to govern Northern Ireland as before, but with enhanced emphasis on security. As his first important initiative, he will place on the agenda of the intergovernmental conference the introduction of selective internment, on an even-handed basis for both sets of paramilitary godfathers, and that the security forces are to be ready to apply internment at short notice. Internment could then follow immediately on the next major escalation of paramilitary violence.

The SDLP will not be happy about the new course. But the Secretary of State can make two things clear to them. First, that he is bound to resist all attempts at progress towards their ultimate objective: the dissolution of the Union. Second, that as long as they remain at best neutral between the security forces and



that Britain is really anxious to disengage from Northern Ireland. That impression more than anything else boosts IRA morale and incites the terrorists to keep up the killing.

In the field of security, Sir Patrick will make known to the security forces that the government has in mind, for certain contingencies, the introduction of selective internment, on an even-handed basis for both sets of paramilitary godfathers, and that the security forces are to be ready to apply internment at short notice. Internment could then follow immediately on the next major escalation of paramilitary violence.

However things work out under Sir Patrick Mayhew, the change of course, and of priorities, is already clear. Interviewed as he arrived in Belfast on Monday, he said that the government was determined "first and foremost" to defeat the terrorists. He also emphasised that Northern Ireland is part of the United Kingdom at the wish of the majority of its inhabitants. These are new notes, and they are welcome and salutary.

R.W. Johnson on the politics fuelling the Mandela split

Sad though it may be in human terms, the separation of Nelson and Winnie Mandela has been greeted with satisfaction across the South African political spectrum. Within the African National Congress there is a feeling that a great weight has been lifted, while in government circles there is relief that the spectre of Winnie Mandela as first lady — with which the right made great play in the recent referendum — can no longer be used to madden white voters.

The question is whether this satisfaction is not premature. Nelson Mandela's statement announcing the separation, which earned him both sympathy and respect, was short and dignified. But it is known that his wife has her own much longer version of events which, when made public, will see her storming out of her corner fists up and eyes blazing. The feeling among her supporters is undeniably bitter. For while both husband and wife admit that there have been political disagreements between them for some time, Mrs Mandela has been scrupulously observing a public silence on such issues, doubtless as part of a bargain with her husband.

The feeling among Mrs Mandela's intimates is that the separation has been prompted by the resurgence of allegations against her in the past week. Not only are the police re-examining the evidence relating to the murder of Stompie Seipei (the subject of Mrs Mandela's current appeal against a six year sentence), but serious charges concerning the murder of the Soweto doctor Abu-Baker Asvat have also been reopened. In addition, the police have widened their investigations to include three further charges of kidnapping and one of theft against Mrs Mandela. Not to put too fine a point on it, there is a very long list of people with stories to tell and allegations to make against Mrs Mandela. Her supporters, all too conscious of this rising tide of accusation and controversy, fear that she is being thrown to the wolves.

In their eyes, the villains of the piece are those on the right of the ANC who have exerted increasing pressure on Mr Mandela to distance himself from his controversial wife. Others are already interpreting it in the same way. Harry Gwala, the powerful ANC boss of the Natal midlands region, who makes no secret of his admiration for Joseph Stalin, has come out strongly in Mrs Mandela's favour. Given her following among the militant youth of the townships and her enthusiastic identification with the ANC's guerrilla wing, Umkhonto we Sizwe, it is clearly possible that the marital split will take on a greater political significance.

There has been speculation that Mrs Mandela may try to retain her post as head of the ANC's social welfare department and her leading position in the women's league. While such a prospect provokes horror among many in the ANC hierarchy, it is far more likely that she will resign both these posts and perhaps even her position on the ANC national executive. In order to be completely free to speak out powerfully against those whom she believes have thwarted her and against those ANC policies with which she disagrees. If this happens, it will become increasingly difficult for the public amity between the camps of the two separated Mandelas to be maintained. As with many separations and divorces, old mutual friends may not only feel themselves forced to choose sides, but



Under fire: Nelson Mandela has had to bow to growing ANC pressure to distance himself from his wife, Winnie

find they are poisoning relations by the very act of choosing. Certainly, the notion cherished by the ANC hierarchy — that Mrs Mandela will retire from the public stage and quietly devote herself to her private life — seems the least probable

outcome. What she is threatened with now is nothing less than political marginalisation and, quite possibly, further public disgrace and even incarceration. Everything we know of the woman suggests that she will fight like a tiger. Already there are loud mutterings in her camp to the effect that while her husband may so far have dissuaded her from pursuing in the courts the press she hates so much, she will now feel free to sue for libel, starting perhaps with those sections of the British press which have led the story of the recent allegations against her.

An even wider political split is possible. The impending formation of an interim government including the ANC, means that the movement will have to come off the fence on two sensitive issues: the final suspension of the armed struggle, and a movement away from the policy of sweeping nationalisation. Both issues are mainly symbolic. The ANC's "armed struggle" never amounted to much even in its heyday, and has amounted to nothing at all for two years now. But its mythology is powerful, and the formal abandonment of armed struggle will be viewed by many township radicals as tantamount to abandoning the struggle altogether, a charge to which the ANC is extremely sensitive.

The commitment to nationalisation has been coming under increasing pressure as the ANC leadership has realised that it may as well wave goodbye to hopes of foreign investment if this policy is not modified. South Africa's mountainous black unemployment cannot be much reduced without a plentiful inflow of

such investment. Thabo Mbeki, the ANC's "foreign minister", has just returned from a trip to the United States, claiming to have cleared the way for new investment by Heinz, Pepsi-Cola and other corporations, with the transparent expectation that the nationalisation policy will be dropped. But the ANC-aligned trade union federation, Cosatu, has taken up an increasingly tough line on nationalisation, as has the South African Communist party. Policy change in this area will be deeply divisive.

On top of this, the ANC elite is beginning to show every sign of embourgeoisement: fancy houses, expensive suits, fancy imported cars, trips to exclusive resorts and all the other accoutrements of wealth are proliferating as the leadership group accepts the eager embrace of the Johannesburg business world. Even Chris Hani, the leader of the Communists, thinks nothing of sending his daughter to an expensive private school, there to learn Latin and Greek as her father once did.

No doubt the constitution of an interim government — and with it the sight of black ministers rolling up to the seat of power in Pretoria in official limousines — will be greeted with initial euphoria by the black community. But simply changing the personnel of government will not have any impact on a country mired in recession and mass poverty. As the lesson sinks in that real as opposed to merely symbolic change will be very hard to achieve, a wave of populist discontent will be directed against the ANC's new men of power, with accusations that they have sold out.

In that context, Winnie Mandela, for all that she was the first and is still perhaps the wealthiest of the new bourgeoisie, could well achieve a position as populist tribune more significant than her old role as a loose cannon on the deck.

The author is a fellow of Magdalen College, Oxford.



...and moreover

ALAN COREN

Here's something you didn't know. Georges Simenon never had the great Wallon was never infested. Do you still maintain that this little corner shop of mine trades only in frivolities?

Were I further to point out not only that his waste-disposal never had a spoon down it, but also that he knew a Chubb 3R35 deadlock, nightditch when he saw one, this would probably be too much hard fact for you to absorb all at once, you would almost certainly have to go and lie down, so I shall hold back for a bit. But be warned: the big stuff is on the way. When it comes to critical theory, I do not spar. I can go 15 rounds with the best.

Interim, the scene now shifts to Monday morning, to find me curled up with Patrick Marnham's new biography, *The Man Who Wasn't Maigret: A Portrait of Georges Simenon*. I read a lot of literary biography, you have to if you aspire to be a novelist, it is the best way of discovering what you need to do in order to write the sort of books you wish to emulate. I first committed myself to this 35 years ago, when I read William Faulkner (people did then), only to discover that he had jotted his early masterpieces while working as a trawlerman, coal-heaver, oil-rigger, steelpacker and various other callings not readily on tap in the London suburbs, even if you could have fitted the Archangel run and refurbishing Salisbury spire into the A-level timetable, so I gave up on being Faulkner and went on to being Hemingway, until I found out that I would have to run through Pamplona doing the thing with the bulls that can give you a wound down there, so then I moved on to being Scott Fitzgerald because all you had to do was drink, but it did help me to write *Gatsby*, it just helped me to walk into the furniture, and that is pretty much the way things went with my fictional ambitions over the next three decades, you would be amazed what novelists have to go through, need I remind you that Trollope had to invent the pillar-box in order to fire up his muse? But then came Monday. I had always admired Simenon — a hundred novels was it? — but I had never known how he had managed it until I read Marnham's book and discovered that Simenon had bedded 10,000 women, even though his wife claimed it was only 1,200 (did they sit down nightly with ready-reckoners and compare lists, did she cry, "I see you've gone wrong, Georges, you've got that big Irish readhead down twice", but it was still enough to get the novels going, and I thought to myself, that's not so difficult, I could do that, especially when I discovered that Georges would often knock off four women in the same afternoon by going up to them in the street, palping their breasts, and then finding a doorway, it couldn't take that long, you would be back at the typewriter by teatime.

So I put down the book and I ran upstairs to choose a seductive tie, and I splashed this terrific aftershave I have, and I was just going through the front door when Mr Elias came out of the kitchen I may have told you we are having rebuilt, and he said look at this, and it was a floorboard with a million tickle holes in, and I said what is it, and he said it is woodworm, you are infested, you will have to get Rentokil over, so I had to fix that up and wait in for on-site inspection and early estimate when I could have been out palping, and that was Monday shot, but I made an early start on Tuesday and nearly got to the garage before Mr Elias caught up and said he could fit the new side door if I went down to Danico and got him a Chubb 3R35 deadlock nightditch, so I drove to Swiss Cottage and I passed some really fantastic looking women on the way, many of them conveniently near doorways, but when I got home again Mr Elias said that is the wrong lock, so I drove back to Danico, and I exchanged looks, by which time it was noon, but there was still half a day until Mr Elias said there was a spoon stuck down the waste disposal, and I said can't you do it, and he said you want this new door in or not, and by the time I had dismantled the waste disposal it was half past two, and I had to write this piece for *The Times*, without even one palpation to inspire me.

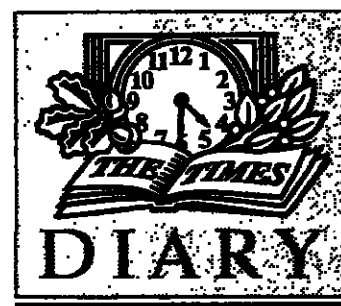
Which is how I know that Simenon never had woodworm.

Patten of princes

CHRIS PATTEN has been offered the governorship of Hong Kong. John Major is understood to have made the offer to the party chairman as a reward for helping the Tories clinch their fourth successive election victory.

Patten is said to be taking soundings among friends, but many of his colleagues are dismayed at the prospect of losing him from domestic politics. Friends such as Tristan Garel-Jones, the Foreign Office minister, are believed to have advised him against accepting the post. "It would be the end of a glittering political career," said one Conservative insider.

Yesterday, Sir Charles Powell, Mrs Thatcher's former foreign policy adviser, visited Patten at Conservative Central Office. Powell is now a senior adviser to Jardine Matheson, the international conglomerate with strong interests in Hong Kong, and he has been a key figure in negotiations with Peking in the run up to the handover in 1997. Patten must have valued his advice.



John Smith has already won one election. At the weekend he was voted vice-president of the Ramblers Association. Smith, a confirmed munter-bagger who took up hill-walking after his heart attack, was elected at their annual conference in Ormskirk by 250 delegates — on a show of hands with not a block vote in sight.

Dial F for service

ETON's age-old system of "fagging" — although it is no longer officially known as such — is finally on the way out. Generations of boys who were press-ganged by their elders to run messages will have mixed feelings at the news that new technology is erasing their successors from these character-building chores.

Roderick Wanson, the college bursar, insists: "Fagging was phased out twenty years ago," but those at the college more recently testify that it has continued unofficially. But now a three way partnership between Mercury, Windsor Cable Communications and the college has created a state-of-the-art switching network, using more than three miles of cable, 54 distribution points and 250 extensions. But if the fags are now relieved of running messages, they have not escaped completely. Even

Sons and mothers

DOROTHY TUTIN is to team up with her son for the first time on the stage, to act out a classic mother and son relationship. She is to play Madame Arkadina in *The Seagull*, at the Theatre City, Mold, next month.

Her son Nick Waring, 24, fresh out of drama school less than a year ago, plays the part of Treplev, the young son who is kept in rags by his domineering mother. Both insist they do not draw on personal experience.

Toby Robertson, who is directing the production, says: "Having been friends with Dot for years, I can say with all honesty that her home life is nothing like the one they portray on stage. They get on very well." For Robertson, who first worked with Tutin at Chichester nearly two decades ago, it will be his swansong. "There is no better way to bow out than with Dorothy Tutin," he says.

Britain, oh yeah

A SONG for Europe may be about to take on a whole new meaning with the news that the Foreign Office is considering a pop song as Britain's anthem to mark its presidency of the EC later this year.

Songwriter Tony Macaulay, whose past clients include Johnny Mathis, David Soul and Elvis Presley, is hoping to add John Major to his personal hit list with *Ring of Stars*, which he has submitted as a possible fanfare to accompany the prime minister's official appearances during Britain's six months EC presidency. The song, described as "a caring 90s version of 'Boom Bang-a-Bang'", had its premiere on the BBC yesterday.

There's a bright sky tonight, A shining ring of stars, To light the way and guide us Through the darkness, To unite all our lives, Now the chance is ours, One family, one shining ring of stars.

Officials at the Foreign Office have been humming the tune for some time, although it denies that it has already conferred an official endorsement. A spokesman says: "We have not ruled out the possibility of using it if the right occasion arises, but we haven't commissioned it or funded it." Hugh Dykes, MP, chairman of the European Movement, is in favour of a British signature tune to mark the presidency, but would be equally happy to stick with Beethoven's "Ode to Joy", recognised in Brussels as the official EC theme song.



Macaulay is no Beethoven, as he proved when he wrote the song for the Queen's 60th birthday, performed for Her Majesty by the Band of the Grenadier Guards. Few who heard it will have forgotten: "We saw your car, hurrah; We saw your horse, of course, of course."

مکتبہ اسلامی



AS THE DUST SETTLES

Rarely has an election result offered such cause for joy and bitterness. Ecstatic Tories have spent this week blaming pollsters and the media for giving them such a fright. Shattered and angry Labour and Liberal Democrat parties are blaming the same groups for raising their hopes and dashing them completely.

In his resignation speech on Monday Neil Kinnock singled out the Tory press for attack. Certain editors, he claimed, were the architects of John Major's triumph and stood between Labour and any return to office. The Conservatives were not to be outdone. They went some way to vindicate Mr Kinnock's complaint by publicly thanking their tabloid editor friends, many of whom have been honoured for such services in the past. Meanwhile, senior Tories privately plotted their revenge against the BBC. Like great animals exhausted after a courtship battle, they twitched and roared and licked their wounds and said silly things.

As April 9, 1992, passes into history, more sober lessons will be drawn from its apparent surprises. It was an election dominated more than any by pollsters. This dominance was in part because the polls pointed to a close finish and in part because of the volume of polling undertaken. Inexperienced campaign teams abandoned the scepticism of their forebears and duly fed the media with their daily reactions.

Many Tories now claim that they knew they would win all along: the doorsteps told them so. Many others said the opposite. But then doorsteps say the same at every election. Labour and Liberal Democrat canvassers were equally strong and suggested equal success. A voter is as likely to be a canvasser as to a pollster. Every forecasting technique can be validated merely by showing that its prediction was right. But that is the defence of the astrologer, not the scientist. Those critics of the government who "sensed recession on the doorsteps" a year ago were reviled by Tory ministers, who told them to ignore the doorstep and listen to Treasury forecasts.

The polls had no interest in getting the result wrong. Politicians have as much reason as the pollsters to find out what really hap-

pened last week: polls will remain part of the political armoury. The initial post mortems suggest that there were an unusually large number of last minute waverers: that early on these were disinclined to support the Conservatives; that at the end, the tax issue and the improved prominence of Mr Major did persuade wavering Tories to stay loyal. The Tories may have benefited from very high turnout. These movements were registered in final poll returns, but in most cases not sufficiently to give an accurate estimate of the result. Whether there was also a "deception factor" at work, further examination may reveal.

What the controversy does suggest is that the campaign was important, that apparent movements in public opinion did affect the parties' tactical decisions and that these decisions probably mattered. This is good news for campaigners, but is no vindication for any particular strategy. Labour's campaign seemed successful and the Tory campaign often a shambles. It is possible that a better Tory campaign would have yielded a bigger lead, a worse Labour campaign a worse defeat. Or the reverse could be true. The danger in drawing lessons from war is that victory invests every tactic with genius while defeat is wholly unforgiving.

Labour's vehemence against sections of the press is understandable. The tabloids have never made a secret of their, mostly Tory, bias. But this is one of the great constants of British politics. The overwhelming hostility of the tabloid press did not stop Labour winning four elections in the 1960s and 70s. Whether the Tories in their turn can contain their animosity against the BBC is for David Mellor and his new department to decide. The corporation is clearly in for a rough time, with its charter due for renewal. Hoist on the petard of its excessive daily coverage of politics, it is bound to seem a less-than-wholly-loyal Opposition to the government of the day. But the occupational hazard of a fourth-term government is cockiness. It needs some countervailing forces ranged against it. For the time being, the BBC may rank among them. Ministers should swallow their gloating thirst for revenge. There is more important work to do.

AN UNJUSTIFIED BAR

The end of restrictive practices in the English legal system moved a step forward yesterday with the publication of proposals to admit solicitors to the upper realms of advocacy. Barristers are to lose their monopoly of the right of audience (the right to be heard) in the High Court, the Crown Courts and above. Not all solicitors are eligible, however. The curious exception is proposed of solicitors in employment, notably in the Crown Prosecution Service but also those working for local government or private companies. The exception is not justified and should not be allowed to stand.

The proposals were drawn up by a committee under Lord Griffiths, the law lord, and have yet to be approved by the Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, who will take advice from the four senior judges. This cumbersome procedure was part of the price Lord Mackay had to pay for minimal consent from the judiciary and the Bar for his Courts and Legal Services Act of 1990. But it does give him room to manoeuvre round the Griffiths committee proposals, round he should use.

The principle that the wall between solicitors and barristers should be demolished was enshrined in the 1990 act. The reactionary wing of the Bar has since been trying to sabotage solicitors' rights of audience in the High Court by asking for conditions which would turn solicitors into barristers in all but name. The Griffiths committee did not fall into that trap. The conditions it suggests, special training and minimum length of practice, are reasonable, except for the insistence that solicitors eligible for advocacy certificates must be in "independent" practice rather than in paid employment.

The Griffiths committee argues that employed solicitors, by virtue of their employment, could not show the requisite degree of impartiality and objectivity. This is

a hollow point. Solicitors in employment are subject to the same professional standards as those in private practice. If they depart from such standards the Law Society may strike them off, regardless of their employment status. And since when did independent solicitors, or indeed barristers, demonstrate such special qualities of impartiality and objectivity? They are all likewise paid to do their best for their clients, within the law.

The committee's recommendation here is embarrassingly transparent. It is directed at reducing the intrusion of solicitors into the barristers' domain. That would defeat the central point of the 1990 act. The intention is confirmed in the Griffiths committee's reasons for wanting to exclude solicitors (and indeed employed barristers) in the CPS from advocacy in the higher courts. It fears that to allow CPS staff to conduct prosecutions in the Crown Court could discourage recruitment to this type of work among members of the Bar. This is a naked plea to protect the criminal Bar from competition. To concede this is to concede the essence of the Bar's case against the Mackay reforms, namely that advocacy was such a special skill that it should be surrounded by restrictive practices.

This case was never accepted by the Lord Chancellor nor by Parliament. It is said to see the Griffiths committee bow to it now. But it does so with a lame proviso that once the CPS has overcome what are left of its teething troubles, the matter could be looked at again. That at least clears the way for Lord Mackay to announce after a short interval that the CPS has now overcome its troubles (as indeed it largely has) and hence its solicitors may apply henceforth for rights of audience in the higher courts. As for the criminal Bar, the work it does is stimulating and rewarding, professionally and financially. It needs no special pleading. Competition with solicitors in the same line of business can only make it better.

ROLL OVER, BEETHOVEN

If only, the Brussels bureaucrats must muller, the Community was as popular as the Eurovision song contest. Every year millions tune in to the excitement of those immortal words: "Yougoslavie — deux points: Italie — cinq points." Flags flutter, multilingual compères gush and national clichés are paraded with pride. This is what qualified majority voting is all about. Here, surely, is the best argument for widening rather than deepening the Community. The polyglot extravaganza invariably ends in a fuz of pan-European good will. If song can achieve so much, what need of Maastricht?

Just such a thought has now occurred to Tony Macaulay, a popular song writer whose earlier oeuvre have included compositions for David Soul, Elvis Presley and the Hollies. Observing that the calendar will soon hand the EC presidency to Britain, he has shrewdly calculated that there is money to be made from Europhilia, soon to be officially sanctioned in Downing Street.

The Foreign Office has done its bit in promulgating a charming logo, Rory the lion, striding friskily into the heart of Europe. There will be fireworks and feasting, bonfires and even a Europrom. But until now there was no catchy song, nothing to set the country humming. "Ring of Stars" now offers to fill the gap.

Europe already has its anthem, the Ode to Joy. But isn't Beethoven too fudgy-duddy for today's exciting new single market? It will do for those occasions when treaties are signed.

But if pop stations can be persuaded to play Mr Macaulay's composition, Britain will surely be seen by its partners as truly *communautaire* and Mr Macaulay will be coming it.

The theory is fine. The British are suckers for trinkets, baubles and ditties. Kitsch may be a German word, but nowhere are its manifestations as frequent as in Britain. The forthcoming presidency of the Community should produce a fine crop. But production does not mean endorsement. Miniature Eiffel towers and plastic Parthenons are the detritus of the tourist market; they do not carry a seal of approval from Paris or Athens.

The government has already gone dangerously down the path of Euro-symbolism, swallowing the pap pushed out to feed the spurious patriotism of Identikit European man. But it has drawn the line at Mr Macaulay's anthem, properly realising that endorsement would open the way to every seller of snake-oil. Symbolism can outlast the occasion for which it was created: the Olympics are still stuck with the rings, the torch and the ceremonial appropriate for Berlin in 1936 but whose origins are embarrassingly today.

Not all countries are as enthused about European unity today as they were four months ago. Britain's partners may not wax lyrical about the shining stars "to guide us through the darkness". Perhaps they would prefer something by John Cage: 4' 33" minutes of complete silence?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Choosing Labour's next leader; verdicts on Kinnock . . .

From Lord McIntosh of Haringey

Sir, As a member of the parliamentary Labour party in the House of Lords, I have no more say in the election of the next leader of the Labour party than any other member.

But I hope that I am not alone in thinking that the electoral college system, with 40 per cent of votes going to trade unions, stitched together when the Labour party was at the depths of hard-left influence, is entirely inappropriate for today.

I will not vote for any candidate for the leadership who will not undertake in advance to press for election to be by "one member one vote" at the next conference; and to re-submit himself or herself for re-election by democratic ballot.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW MCINTOSH,
House of Lords.
April 13.

From Mr Humphry Berkeley

Sir, I pay tribute to Neil Kinnock's brilliant leadership of the Labour party which you rightly compare to that of Hugh Gaitskill (leading article, April 14).

The Labour party does, however, need to look at its method of choosing a leader. Until recently, the leader was chosen by members of Parliament through means of a secret ballot. In the early 1980s an electoral college was set up which gave members of Parliament and constituency parties, each, 30 per

cent of the vote and trade unions 40 per cent. In my view, there can be no justification for this highly artificial procedure.

The historic links between the Labour party and the trade unions are well known and understood. I believe that, in future, every paid-up member of the party should have a vote in choosing its leader. This procedure would, of course, include all party members who belong to a trade union.

Yours faithfully,
HUMPHRY BERKELEY,
Three Pages Yard,
Chiswick, W4.
April 14.

From Mr John Fingleton

Sir, Despite the almost eulogistic paeans of praise now being heaped from certain quarters on Neil Kinnock, surely nothing was so unbecoming of his holding office as his leaving it.

I found his statement at Labour's Walworth Road HQ in the early hours of Friday unidentified and bitter; his press statement on Monday petulant and unpleasant.

Perhaps he has overlooked the incontrovertible fact that more than 60 per cent of those who voted expressed their preference for a political system and government other than his.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN FINGLETON,
19 York House,
Upper Montagu Street, W1.
April 14.

. . . wily Tories, shrinking Lib Dems and vote switching

From Dr Brian Harrison

Sir, It is not the rules of our electoral system that have produced four successive victories for the Conservatives, but their skill in exploiting them.

The simple-majority system puts a premium on party unity. Even at the height of the battle between "wets" and "dries" in the early 1980s the Conservatives were sensible enough never to split.

People who really want to oust the Conservatives do not need to embrace all the distractions of electoral reform; they simply need to get together under the existing electoral system. This means returning to the Liberal party's successful strategy of 1903-14: forming an electoral pact to maximise the anti-Conservative vote by putting up in each constituency only the anti-Conservative candidate who is most likely to win.

A decision to take this course would of course require courage and imagination from whoever leads Labour and the Liberal Democrats, but it would have two major advantages: it would be less likely to postpone until after the next general election the possibility of ousting the Conservatives; and it would preserve a simple-majority electoral system that in itself has great advantages, and accords with our parliamentary and national traditions.

Our electoral system maximises the political impact of the voter by minimising the role of politicians and party activists in determining the party make-up of the govern-

ment: establishes through the two-party system coalitions of a relatively stable kind; and disperses relatively widely throughout the community a concern with governmental and parliamentary priorities.

It is also perhaps worth pointing out that Britain was operating the simple-majority system in times of great national prosperity long before parliamentary government had been securely established in many of the European countries whose electoral systems we are now urged to imitate.

Yours sincerely,
BRIAN HARRISON,
Corpus Christi College,
Oxford.
April 11.

From Mr Adrian Bazar

Sir, In spite of an excellent performance by Paddy Ashdown, coupled with enormous media coverage, the election results still showed the Liberal Democrat party to be in decline, with its share of the vote falling from 26 per cent in 1983 to 23 per cent in 1987 and now to only 18 per cent.

The explanation is surely that the centre space of the political spectrum that the party occupies has become progressively smaller as the Labour party has moved sharply to the right and the Conservatives under John Major have softened the radical approach of Thatcherism. The ideological gap between the parties has virtually disappeared.

Without proportional representation it is unlikely that the Liberal

From Mr Richard A. Lea

Sir, So, now we know, Mr Kinnock's election defeat was all the fault of the wicked Tory press. He might, however, have balanced his comments by acknowledging the unwavering support he has received throughout from the BBC.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD A. LEA,
9 Jacobean Lane,
Knowle, Solihull,
West Midlands.
April 14.

From Mr John E. Harvey

Sir, Mr Kinnock's attack on the press suggests that experience has made him no wiser.

Basildon man may not necessarily buy *The Sun* for its political opinions. *The Financial Times*? No comment by Mr Kinnock on its support for Labour.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN E. HARVEY,
Great Elm, 43 Traps Hill,
Loughton, Essex.
April 14.

From Mr Brian Matthews

Sir, If Labour lost the election as a result of a perverse Tory press, why has Mr Kinnock resigned?

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN MATTHEWS,
Sadlers, High Street,
Burwash,
East Sussex.
April 13.

From Mr Mike Thomas

Sir, The Liberal Democrats have only themselves to blame for their electoral misfortune.

In their determination to extinguish the Social Democratic party, to impose a single Liberal-dominated force in place of the "Alliance" (and to exclude from that force anyone who would not join it on their terms) they ensured the conversion of many SDP supporters to other parties.

That, combined with their foolish failure to hold firm to the 1987 position, insisted upon by the SDP, that, in a hung Parliament, the proper thing to do was to negotiate first, and on a clearly laid down set of policy principles, with whichever of the other parties had the largest number of MPs.

After all the "footsy" he played with Labour in 1992 no wonder the electors thought Paddy Ashdown would let Neil Kinnock in.

Yours faithfully,
MIKE THOMAS (SDP National Committee 1981-90),
9 King Street, Covent Garden, WC2.
April 13.

Thatcher legacy?

From Mr Andrew Berkeley

Sir, Seen from Finchley, the election result was very simple to understand. It was won by our outgoing member of Parliament.

1. The inherited majority was too large to be overcome in a single assault.
2. Having tasted economic freedom, many of the electorate did not wish to rise from the table.

Yours faithfully,
A. BERKELEY,
49 Arden Road,
Finchley, N3.
April 12.

Business letters, page 21

Monster fungus

From Dr Oliver Rackham

Sir, The Toronto and Michigan scientists are rightly proud of finding an individual of honey-fungus (*Armillaria bulbosa*) covering 15 hectares (report, April 2). But this is one of many plants that form clones, that is, that spread out by roots, underground stems or other vegetative parts in ever-widening circles from a point of origin. Given that each of these is a single organism, it is not easy to decide which is the world's largest, heaviest, or oldest.

I had the privilege of helping the late Dr John Rishbeth to map clones of *Armillaria* in Bradfield Woods, Suffolk: we found one not much smaller than that in Michigan, though we did not try to weigh it.

Infection from dogs

From Mr Keith Butt

Sir, The fear of any child becoming infected with toxocarosis through contact with dog faeces is an emotive one. In his excellent article (Medical Briefing, April 3) Dr Thomas Stuttaford confirms the medical view that toxocarosis infection actually poses little threat to a child's health and, contrary to popular belief, the risk of any such infection is exaggerated.

Parents may be further reassured by the results of an analysis carried out last week on ten randomly-selected superficial soil samples from Kensington Gardens, including some taken from areas close to the park

Among trees, a clone of suckering elm used to cover nearly five hectares in Hayley Wood, Cambridgeshire; it was a single root-system to which hundreds of big elm-trees were attached, and would have weighed more than 100 tons. Elm disease and deer have left little of these elms, but an elm clone nearly as big is still alive in Overhall Grove near by.

Bigger clones still are probably formed by bracken: a single bracken organism may well cover tens of hectares. And what of other countries? Will not an Indian put in a bid for a banyan clone as the world's largest organism?

Yours faithfully,
OLIVER RACKHAM,
Corpus Christi College, Cambridge.
April 5.

gates where dogs routinely defecate. In none of these was any trace of *Toxocara canis* present, in spite of the fact that the eggs of this parasite can remain in the soil for years. The only worm egg found was a strongyloid (horseworm), possibly caused by police horses which use the park but in any event not a health threat.

Yours faithfully,
KEITH BUTT,
Kynance Veterinary Clinic,
8 Kynance Mews, SW7.
April 9.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

A sea phoenix in St Mary Axe?

From Mr M. B. F. Ranken

Sir, Your photograph yesterday showed the wreck of the Chamber of Shipping, serving British shipping (not so long ago the largest national-flag fleet in the world) and headquarters of several international shipping associations. Your main report stated that the Chamber and the Baltic Exchange, a Grade 2 1903 listed building next door, are likely to be demolished.

The Baltic, housing the world's only international shipping exchange, is a vital element in maintaining London's position as the commercial centre of world shipping: it is the fifth largest contributor to the City's invisible earnings, bringing in £665 million in 1990.

Today is the 80th anniversary of the Titanic disaster, out of which grew the first International Convention on Safety of Life At Sea (SOLAS). Today, this is one of many safety conventions administered from London by the International Maritime Organisation, the only UN specialised agency to which the United Kingdom plays host.

Is this not the moment to suggest that the Chamber and the Baltic get together to build themselves a new, superbly equipped world shipping business centre? As well as housing the Chamber and the Baltic (hopefully saving as much as they can from their old buildings) it could offer accommodation and superb communications and facilities to other international maritime bodies, as well as to owners, brokers, lawyers and others who operate ships and serve world maritime trade.

Let something worthwhile arise out of these wrecks, too, to take us into a brave new century, when world trade and the world fleet to carry it are both certain to grow — economically and one hopes ever more safely.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL RANKEN
(Secretary, The Parliamentary Maritime Group),
44 Castelnau Mansions,
Castelnau, Barnes, SW13.
April 14.

From Miss Lynnet Gale-Vine

Sir, The shipping industry in London is totally devastated. To us who work at the Baltic Exchange there is more involved in last Friday's outrage than just the loss of a trading floor and of our beautiful building: the heart of the London shipping market has been wiped out.

Commercially, the worst hit are obviously the companies whose offices were destroyed in the blast. We are a small industry, though, and our natural competitiveness has been channelled into assisting each other: any company with available space has been offering temporary accommodation to those affected. Business yesterday was generally under way remarkably quickly, with telexes circulating information by mid-morning as to who could be contacted at which company.

It was heartening yesterday to hear of brokers, some coming in from miles outside the City, determined to make their way as close to the Baltic as the police cordons would allow, at the normal time for trading. The Exchange will be restored but the scars will be with us for a long time, both for us as an industry and for all of those injured and killed on Friday. I had friends amongst them.

Yours faithfully,
L. K. GALE-VINE,
24 Berkeley Road, Barnes, SW13.
April 14.

Rail crossing safety

From Dr D. J. Dunstan

Sir, The simplest way to prevent drivers zig-zagging around half-barriers at railway crossings, while avoiding trapping cars between full barriers (report, April 6; letters, April 10, 14), is to make the road dual-carriageway across the crossing.

This could be done using a kerb or low wall as a divider, perhaps a foot or so high except just at the rails where it might be limited to a few inches high depending on the clearance of the trains. In contrast to the engineering solutions proposed, this requires no replacement of any of the level-crossing equipment.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID DUNSTAN,
University of Surrey,
Physics Department,
Guildford, Surrey GU2 5XH.
April 14.

Watching watchdogs

From Mr James M. B. Burn

Sir, In these days of audit and accountability, consumer protection and customer charters, who monitors the watchdogs?

I wrote to the Post Office Users National Council last April and received an acknowledgement promising a full reply. Three months later my reminder elicited the response that they were very busy, but a proper reply would be sent "in the near future".

This week is the first year's anniversary of my original letter: and still no reply. Perhaps it was lost in the post.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES M. B. BURN,
White House, The Fenches,
East Wellow, Romsey, Hampshire.
April 13.



COURT CIRCULAR

WINDSOR CASTLE
April 14: The Hon Tom King, MP, had an audience of the Queen today, delivered up the Seals of Office and took leave upon relinquishing his appointment as Secretary of State for Defence, when Her Majesty invested him with the Insignia of a Member of the Order of Companions of Honour.

The Lady Abel Smith has succeeded Mrs John Dugdale as Lady in Waiting to the Queen.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
April 14: The Duke of York today attended a luncheon with Her Majesty's Judges at the Central Criminal Court, London WC2.

His Royal Highness this evening presented the Royal Aero Club Medals and Awards at the Landowne Club, Fitzmaurice Place, London W1.

The Duke of York subsequently presented the 1992 Young Electronic Designer Awards at the Science Museum, South Kensington, London SW7, and was received by the Mayor of Kensington and Chelsea (Councillor Mrs Frank Taylor).

Captain Neil Blair, RN, was in attendance.

CLARENCE HOUSE
April 14: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother this afternoon visited the Queen Alexandra Hospital Home, Gifford House, Worthing.

Miss Jane Walker-Okeover and Sir Martin Gilliat were in attendance.

Ruth, Lady Fermoy has succeeded Miss Jane Walker-Okeover as Lady-in-Waiting to Her Majesty.

KENSINGTON PALACE
April 14: The Prince of Wales, Colonel-in-Chief, Army Air Corps, this morning received the Colonel Commandant, General Sir John Latham and the Director, Major General Simon Lytle.

His Royal Highness, Colonel-in-Chief, Cheshire Regiment, subsequently received Brigadier Keith Prosser on relinquishing the appointment of Colonel of the Regiment, and Brigadier James Percival on assuming the appointment.

The Prince of Wales, Patron, Rainbow Boats Trust, this afternoon visited Stroudwater Canal and the Willow Boat Trust, Stroud, Gloucestershire.

Lieutenant Commander Robert Fraser, RN, was in attendance.

Today's royal engagements

The Duke of Edinburgh will attend a wreath laying ceremony at the Cenotaph at 11.00 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the award of the George Cross to the Island of Malta.

The Prince of Wales, as President of The Prince's Trust, will attend a discussion and presentation from the Trust's volunteers at the BBC, Whitehall Road, Bristol, at 11.00.

The Duke of York will attend the Falklands anniversary reception at the Imperial War Museum at 7.15.

The Duke of Kent, as Vice-Chairman of the British Overseas Trade Board, will visit Carpenter and Paterson and Florent at Whitepool, at 11.15. Control Techniques, Newport, at 1.15 and Handcast Designs at 2.10.

KENSINGTON PALACE
April 14: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, Master of the Bench, this evening dined with the Treasurer and Past Treasurers of the Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn.

Mrs Robin Benson and Major The Lord Napier and Ettrick were in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
April 14: The Duke of Gloucester this morning opened the exhibition "Castles in Northamptonshire" at Rockingham Castle, Rockingham, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Northamptonshire (Mr John Lowther).

In the afternoon His Royal Highness visited the Sue Ryder Home, Thorpe Hall, Peterborough, and was received by Her Majesty's Vice Lord-Lieutenant for Cambridgeshire (Mr James Cranberry).

Later The Duke of Gloucester, President, the Cancer Research Campaign, visited the Cancer Research Campaign Shop at 22 Westgate, Peterborough.

In the evening The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester were present at the Annual Gala Dinner of the Consular Corps of London at the Hyatt Carlton Tower Hotel, London SW1.

Major Nicholas Barne and Miss Suzanne Marland were in attendance.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
April 14: The Duke of Kent, Colonel Scots Guards, today visited the 1st Battalion, Hohn, Germany.

Captain the Hon Tom Coke was in attendance.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
April 14: Princess Alexandra this afternoon visited Glasgow and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for the City of Glasgow (Mrs Susan Baird, the Right Hon the Lord Provost).

Her Royal Highness visited the Burrell Collection, Pollok Country Park.

Princess Alexandra, Patron, subsequently opened the new Veterinary Centre of the People's Dispensary for Sick Animals at Muirfield Drive.

Finally Her Royal Highness, President of the Society for the Blind, attended a Reception held by the Scottish Council at the City Chambers.

The Lady Mary Mumford was in attendance.

Reception

Commission for The New Towns
A reception was held last night at Guildhall, in the presence of the Right Hon The Lord Mayor of London, Sir Brian Jenkins, GBE, and the Sheriffs, to mark the 30th anniversary of the Commission for the New Towns. The hosts were the Chairmen, Sir Neil Shields, MC, and members of the Board. Among the guests were civic leaders and officers of the 21 English New Towns together with Members of Parliament, representatives from overseas embassies, commerce and the property sector.

Earl St Aldwyn

A service of thanksgiving for the Life and Work of Michael John Hicks Beach, Earl St Aldwyn, will be held in St Margaret's Church, Westminster Abbey, on Wednesday, June 10, 1992, at 11.30am. Tickets are not required. All are welcome.



Sir Yehudi Menuhin yesterday unveiled a new portrait of Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother commissioned from Andrew Festing by the Royal Society of Musicians of Great Britain, of which the Queen Mother is patron.

Archaeology

Maya medallion man unearthed

By NORMAN HAMMOND,
ARCHAEOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

A BRITISH team of archaeologists working in Belize has discovered one of the earliest known pieces of Maya art. A small bone mask worn as a pectoral ornament or chest medallion has a stylised visage which may combine human with jaguar features.

The mask was found on the chest of a burial dating to about 500 BC, at the early Maya settlement of Cuello in northern Belize. It was carved from part of a skull, possibly human, and is about three inches wide. The snarling mouth shows a set of central teeth, with large gaps at the sides, and was pierced right through the bone.

The upper and lower orbits of the eyes were also pierced, although the pupils were only partly drilled sockets. Two small jade beads found nearby might have been inserted as pupils. Both eyes and mouth are enclosed within cartouches, leaving the nose defined as a bumpy area of bone between. Two suspension holes in the forehead show that the mask was intended as a pendant.

Although humanoid jaguar

images are not uncommon in Mexican art of the first millennium BC, especially among the Olmec of the Gulf Coast region who flourished between 900 and 400 BC, the Maya area has not hitherto yielded anything this early or elaborate.

The burial of a mature man, was accompanied by three pottery vessels which allow it to be dated to around 2,500 years ago. Four carved bone tubes were also found, strung around his waist like a belt. One of these bears an intricate design which the later Classic Maya called the *pop* motif; it was a symbol of royal power, derived from the woven mat used as a throne.

The carved bones are being restored by Mr Jim Spriggs at the conservation laboratory of the York Archaeological Trust: the mask was found in nearly 30 fragments, and two of the tubes were crushed in the ground. Mr Spriggs, who helped to excavate the site, says the spring will take them back to Belize in 1993 to join the collection in the new national museum in Belmopan, the capital.

Eton College

Eton College opens today for the Summer Half. W.T.C. Pryor, KS, continues as Captain of the School and M.B. Swire, OS, as Captain of the Oppidians. There will be four performances of *West Side Story* in the Farrier Theatre from May 21-24. The CCF Tamo will be on May 26, and the Fourth of June will be celebrated on May 27. Long Leave is from May 27-31. The Winchester match will be at Winchester on June 13, the Harrow match at Lord's on Wednesday, June 24. School closes on June 26.

Royal Caledonian Ball

Tickets for the Royal Caledonian Ball, which is being held on Thursday, May 7, are still available at £48.00 from The Secretary, The Old Manse, High Street, Stockbridge, Hampshire SO20 6EX. Telephone 0264 810363.

St George's Day Service

Staff and students, past and present, are invited to attend the annual St George's Day Service in the Chapel at St George's Hospital, Blackshaw Road, Tooting, on April 23. Please note a change of time to 5pm. All are welcome to attend the reception afterwards.

St Paul's School

The Governors of St Paul's School have appointed Mr Stephen Baldock, MA, as High Master to succeed Canon Peter Pilkington, who retires in July 1992 prior to becoming Chairman of the Broadcasting Complaints Commission. Mr Baldock, who has been Summarist at St Paul's since 1986, will take up the post in September 1992.

A Scottish drama

Crofters make the skinheads wait

By KERRY GILL

IT IS all very well actors proudly proclaiming that the show must go on, but to the tiny crofting community of Skerry, on the northern Scottish coast, it is the season's new lambs that are of most importance.

Last night members of the Edinburgh-based Mandala theatre company, who began a tour of the Highlands, were forced to put back the premiere of *The Dorm* by half an hour to accommodate one of the necessities of country living: the traditional check on the flock before nightfall.

Gavin Lockhart, a member of the village hall committee, who organised the theatre company's visit, said: "The entire audience are crofters and their families. The lambing season has just started and if the play had started at 8pm the actors would have been performing to an empty hall while everyone was in the fields. It is important to keep a careful watch on the lambs and the sheep as they are such an important element in this community."

In such an inhospitable climate it was essential to keep a regular eye on the sheep and lambs. Although the sun was shining late yesterday, April

weather in the area can turn to snow within minutes. Mr Lockhart said darkness fell at about 8.30 and everyone would rush back from the fields to watch the play.

The play might have been something of a culture shock to the crofters. *The Dorm* is about five juvenile delinquents in a young offenders' institution. After it was learned that the language was fairly offensive someone decided that a warning to this effect should be placed on the bills advertising the play. Mr Lockhart said: "Someone else should have pointed out that the language would be no worse than that heard from the crofters during lambing."

Skerry is proud of its cultural links with the outside world. The crofting families are among the most welcoming to touring companies bringing theatre and music to the far-flung community. For instance, it was the first time that the crofters welcomed the skinheads into their homes. Mr Lockhart said: "The company is staying in the village. They all arrived in costume as five skinheads. It was the first time people had even seen a bunch of skinheads wandering about the village."

Forthcoming marriages

Mr A.P. Ashby and Miss N.J. Barrett
The engagement is announced between Andrew Paul, only son of Mr and Mrs Len Ashby, of Upperton, Brighthelm Baldwin, Oxfordshire, and Nicholas Jane, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Tim Barrett, of Culham Manor, Abingdon.

Mr A.K. Dwyer and Miss H.L. Barclay
The engagement is announced between John, eldest son of Dr A.K. Dwyer, of Brockhurst, Hampshire, and Helen K. Wood, of Sparsholt, Hampshire, and Henrietta, daughter of Mr and Mrs C.F.R. Barclay, of Painswick, Gloucestershire.

Mr T.C.K. Hyde and Miss T.R. Ludford
The engagement is announced between Timothy, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Peter Hyde, of York, and Tamara, eldest daughter of Mr Jeremy and Dr Cynthia Ludford, of Salisbury, Wiltshire.

Mr L.W. Walker and Mrs S.C. Clifton
The engagement is announced between Ian, son of Mr and Mrs L.W. Walker, of St Mary's Place, Kent, and Sarah, daughter of the Rev D.C. Maple and Mrs G.E. Maple, of Camberley, Kent.

Marriage

Mr A.S. Mainds and Mrs L.M. Cameron
The marriage took place on April 11 in Quaxham, Buckinghamshire, of Mr Sam Mainds, son of Mrs Mainds and the late Mr George Mainds, and Mrs Lavinia Cameron, daughter of Mr and Mrs Christopher Pridmore.

Birthdays today

Mr Jeffrey Archer, author, 52; David Joseph Ratnes, deputy chairman, Broadcasting Standards Council, 63; Sir Kenneth Bloomfield, civil servant, 61; Group Captain David Bolton, director, Royal United Services Institute for Defence Studies, 60; Sir Adrian Cadbury, former chairman, Cadbury Schweppes, 63; Miss Claudia Cardinale, actress, 54; Sir Richard Evans, diplomat, 64; Lord Grey of Naunton, 82; Sir Neville Martinson, conductor, 66; Professor C.D. Marsden, neurologist, 54; Sir Peter Maudslayi, former chairman, Electricity Council, 80; Mr A.J.P. Ross, chairman, Joint Consultants Committee, 57; Earl Russell, 55; Sir Maurice Shock, rector, Lincoln College, Oxford, 66; Sir Leslie Smith, former chairman, BOC Group, 73; Mr C.H. Stafford, former master, St Paul's School, Oxford, 72; Miss Emma Thompson, actress, 33; Miss Meriel Trevor, author, 73; Dr Richard von Weizsäcker, President of Germany, 72; Dame Susan Walker, former vice-chairman, WRVS, 86; Sir Douglas Weiss, civil servant, 69.

Latest wills

Dame Peggy Askeford, of Hants, died, the actress, left estate valued at £814,395 net. She left a portrait of herself by Walter Sickert to the Tate Gallery. Other estates include (net, before tax paid): Margaret Rosemarie Coleman, of Baywater, £1,352,675; Mrs Evelyn Marjorie Ellis, of Southill, West Midlands, £1,154,010; Mrs Mary Theresa Jackson, of Sagan, Surrey, £1,799,353; Mr Albert Tammara, of Barking, Essex, £1,747,244; Mr Hussain Bisher Khoshdel, of Baywater, £1,368,561; Mr Alex Edward Piper, of Playden, East Sussex, £1,321,186.

Telephone 071 481 4000

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Telefax 071 782 7827

For as through the disclosure of one man many were made winners, so through the disclosure of one man many were made losers. Romans 6: 15

BIRTHS

BLAKESLEY - On April 13th 1992, to Sally Anne (née Deller) and Richard, a son, Thomas Percival.

CAPFYN - On April 12th 1992, to Sarah Jane (née Simon) and Simon, a son, Thomas Morris, a brother for James.

COLLIER - On April 8th, to Jane (née Spittle) and Peter, a daughter, Rosemary, a sister for Cordelia.

COMBES - On Monday April 6th, to Elaine and Richard, a daughter, Alexandra Zoe, a sister for Timothy.

COURTNEY DUNN - On April 9th, to Michael (née Courtney) and Catherine, a son, James, a brother for James.

DALEY - On April 9th, to Michael (née Courtney) and Catherine, a son, James, a brother for James.

GANDY - On April 14th, to Joanne and William, a son, Matthew Richard, a brother for Beth.

GOFF - On April 13th in Norwich, to William and Elizabeth (née Freeland), a daughter, Fiona Clara.

GRIFFIN - On April 10th, to Jane (née O'Neill) and Zed, a son, Thomas James, a brother for James.

HANBURY - On Monday April 13th 1992, to Anne (née Brumby) and Zed, a son, Thomas James, a brother for James.

HARRIS-ST JOHN - On April 10th, to Karen (née Harris) and Jeremy, a son, Oliver Beaumont.

HOWARTH - On April 8th, to Tricia and Charles, a son, Benjamin Martin.

JACOBSON - On April 14th 1992, to Eva and Arthur, a son, Max Paul Geraint.

PEASE - On April 14th 1992, to Lucy (née Sturt) and Alexander, a daughter, Claudia Catherine Anne.

PETRI - On April 11th 1992, to Helen and Charles, a daughter, Isabel, a sister for Florence.

SMALLMAN - On March 18th to Geoffrey and Helen, God's gift of a son, John Donald, a brother for George.

SWINBURNE - On April 3rd, to Alexandra (née Darvell) and Andrew, a son, Alexander James Alton, a brother for George.

TOLTON - On April 11th, at the Humana Hospital, Wellington, to Brian and Liz, a daughter, Louise Annella.

DEATHS

DALLAS - On April 13th, peacefully at home with his family, Marjorie Ellen, dear wife of the late William Thomas, beloved mother of Robert, Michael, Gregor and Caroline, mother-in-law to Helen, Susan and Geoffrey, grandmother to Emily, Catherine, Edward, James and Joseph. She will be greatly missed by all her family and her many friends. Funeral service at St Mary's Parish Church, 2pm on Thursday April 16th. Donations may be made to St Mary's Church Restoration Fund. Tel: 0273 832175.

WIGGAM - On April 10th, at his home, 10, St. John's Road, London, a son, Thomas Charles.

BELL - On April 13th 1992, at his home, 10, St. John's Road, London, a son, Thomas Charles.

COLLIER - On April 8th, to Jane (née Spittle) and Peter, a daughter, Rosemary, a sister for Cordelia.

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DEATHS

WILKINSON - On Palm Sunday, at home (Epsom), Jill (née Foley) 71. A devoted wife, mother, grandmother and stepmother. Cremation at Tunbridge Wells Crematorium on Tuesday April 21st at 11.30. No flowers. Donations in memory of Jill to the British Heart Foundation, 100 and 101 of the main A100 road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. Tel: 01892 521111.

MILFORD-GATEFIELD - On April 11th, after a long and painful illness, Ronald, husband of the late Elizabeth, died at his home, 11, St. John's Road, London. Funeral at St. John's Church, 11, St. John's Road, London, on Thursday April 16th at 11am. Tel: 0273 832175.

JONES - On Monday April 13th 1992, at the West Cumberland Hospital, peacefully after a short illness, William Charles Jones, aged 81 years, husband of the late Elizabeth, died at his home, 11, St. John's Road, London. Funeral at St. John's Church, 11, St. John's Road, London, on Thursday April 16th at 11am. Tel: 0273 832175.

COLLIER - On April 8th, to Jane (née Spittle) and Peter, a daughter, Rosemary, a sister for Cordelia.

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LEGAL NOTICES

INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the following companies have been placed into liquidation by the Court: The Liquidator, 10, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF. Tel: 01753 634444.

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATOR
The following companies have been placed into administration by the Court: The Administrator, 10, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF. Tel: 01753 634444.

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OBITUARIES

WILLIAM PALING

William Paling, Labour MP for Dewsbury, 1945-59, has died aged 99. He was born on October 28, 1892.

WILLIAM Paling took a once traditional road to the Commons — from the pits to the Central Labour College and on to an appointment as a checkweighman. He was elected into the House in 1945 and only ill health forced him to retire in 1959 — an injury which did not prevent him living on until he was only months away from celebrating his 100th birthday.

Paling was born into a mining family and remained essentially a miners' MP throughout his career. He was sponsored by the NUM and concentrated on industrial safety as an active backbencher. He went down the pits soon after his 14th birthday but escaped by winning a scholarship to the old Central Labour College in London.

There he met fellow students who were to achieve high office in the Labour Party and the unions. Aneurin Bevan, although several years younger, was a contemporary at the college where Paling studied economics, industrial history and sociology and was schooled in the theory of the

conflict between the classes. Paling, unlike Bevan, spent his life on the moderate wing of the party though he followed Bevan in the 1950s in opposing the first use of the H-bomb.

He fought Burton-on-Trent in both the 1929 and 1931 general elections but had little success in a true-blue Tory seat and had to content himself with membership of the West Riding county council, to which he was elected in 1928.

His union activities preoccupied him for most of the 1930s and the war years and it was not until 1945 that he was elected to parliament — a parliament which saw his brother, Wilfred Paling, become first Minister of Pensions and then Postmaster-General under Attlee.

In the House Paling was a robust supporter of his industry and spoke frequently about industrial safety — in factories and offices as well as the pits. His bill to introduce compulsory safety committees and elect safety inspectors in all work places failed to reach the statute book but he was a generous supporter of the Mines and Quarries Bill when it was introduced by Churchill's Conservative government in 1954.

Although his occupation and, to a lesser degree, his age kept him from joining the services during the war, he made the interests of national servicemen one of his chief interests. He visited the Rhine Army to study conditions and when returning on one occasion in 1957, his aircraft made an unexpected dive and Paling suffered a neck injury. It was sufficiently serious for him to decide not to seek re-election in 1959 but it did not prevent him enjoying more than 30 years of subsequent retirement.

He was married in 1919 to Gladys Frith and they had one son and one daughter.



IRVINE GRAY

Irvine Egerton Gray, former intelligence officer and archivist, died on March 27 aged 88. He was born on April 4, 1903.

IRVINE Gray was a notable archivist in that post-war period when major collections of private archives were being gathered by English county record offices. Educated at Ipswich School and Jesus College, Cambridge, he spent 15 years with the General Accident Assurance Corporation. He was author of its jubilee history in 1935, a first indication of his ability to deal with yellowing papers.

Gray was commissioned in 1939 as an intelligence officer and served in France with the 51st (Highland) Division. He avoided capture with the rest of the division and was mentioned in dispatches. Later in the war he worked for four years in counter-espionage, based in Beirut. He was among the first to identify the Blair intelligence of a young acting sergeant, Maurice Oldfield, whom he recommended for a commission. Oldfield was later director general of MI6.

After the war Gray embarked on a new and more congenial career. After two

years' apprenticeship in the Essex Record Office he was appointed county records officer of Gloucestershire in 1948.

Persistent, unhurried, scholarly and unfailingly courteous, he could not have been better suited for his new life. He quickly won the respect of the local gentry who yielded the contents of their muniment rooms into his care, his most notable discovery being the hoard at Lydney Park of the state papers of Sir John Banks, attorney general, 1634-40, described as one of the most valuable among collections of new material for English history that had recently come to light.

After retirement in 1968 he spent a further 17 productive years listing records for the Historical Manuscripts Commission, the Public Record Office and other bodies, including the Society of Antiquaries, which had elected him a fellow in 1954. A true antiquary himself, Gray published extensively, took part in archaeological excavations and was instrumental in saving two historical landmarks, the ruins of the Blackfriars in Gloucester and the Dutch water gardens at Westbury-on-Severn.

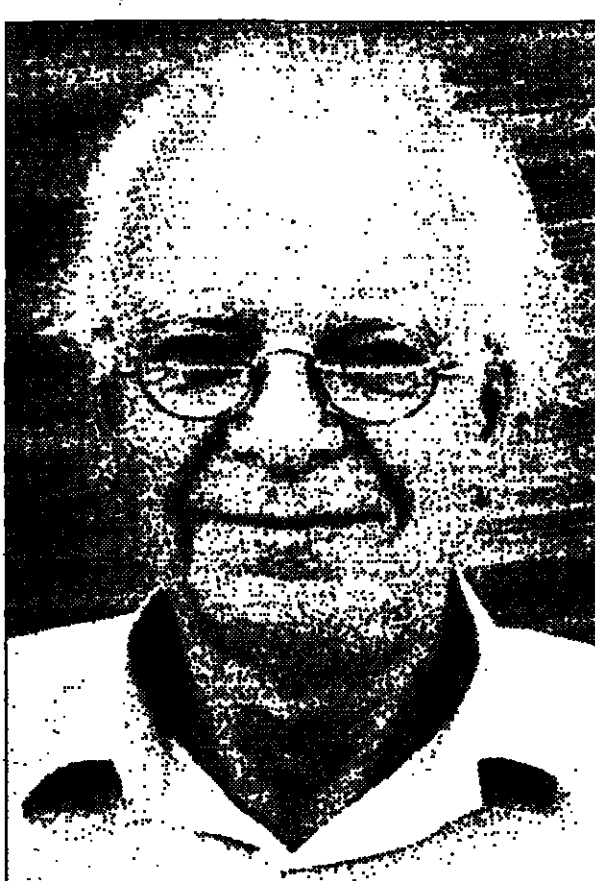
DR PETER MITCHELL

Dr Peter Dennis Mitchell, FRS, biochemist and Nobel laureate, died on April 10 at Glynn House, Bodmin, aged 71. He was born in Mitcham, Surrey, on September 29, 1920.

PETER Mitchell solved one of biology's major mysteries: how living cells create energy and use it to move muscles and send nerve signals. He received the Nobel prize for chemistry in 1978 for his research into this chemical process. He had spent more than twenty years researching the transfer of energy within the cells of living organisms, the relationship between chemical changes in substances and the movement of chemical particles in space.

His hypothesis met, initially, with an almost derisive reception. Few of the workers in the field had the necessary background knowledge in electrochemistry to appreciate the proposals and they had spent many years searching for a chemical intermediate, which Mitchell argued did not even exist.

Over the next ten or so years he fought a battle which saw his hypothesis become a theory and attract an ever increasing number of scientists to his banner. The hypothesis, which he first propounded in a paper to *Nature* in 1961, stated that the energy derived from the oxidation of foodstuffs in animals or the capture of light in plants was used not to generate a chemical intermediate, which was the received opinion, but rather involved the forced movement of hydrogen ions across specific membranes; oxidation or light resulted in the storage of energy as an electrical potential; this potential was used in turn for the synthesis of adenosine triphosphate (ATP). His findings opened up a new research field, one that



underpinned many biological processes.

Peter Mitchell was educated at Queens College, Taunton, and Jesus College, Cambridge. He took his BA in 1943 and his PhD in 1950, when he became a university demonstrator in biochemistry. At this stage he was interested in the "active" accumulation of phosphate by bacteria. Undoubtedly the thinking and understanding involved in this work were important progenitors of the ideas which were yet to come. It was at this time that his lifelong and successful collaboration with Dr Jennifer Moyle began. At that period Mitchell's bench was located a few feet away from that of Fred

Sanger, who later gained two Nobel prizes for chemistry. Sanger said of Mitchell: "Peter had an original idea on every subject and we all knew even then that he would possibly change science."

In 1955 Mitchell moved to the department of zoology at the University of Edinburgh. It was from there that the first rustlings of the new hypothesis were heard and then seen. Unfortunately in the early 1960s he became increasingly ill with a gastric complaint. On medical advice he resigned his post in Edinburgh and went to live quietly in Bodmin, giving up his scientific work. It was then that he conceived the idea of setting up his privately owned and

funded research laboratories. He found a derelict property, Glynn House, which he proceeded, as architect and clerk of the works, to convert into both a superb suite of laboratories and a comfortable and stylish home. The generosity of the Mitchell family provided, in 1964, an initial investment of £240,000 to cover the running costs of the research institute.

This was the start of an era of high achievement for Mitchell and his collaborators. It was from Glynn that he defended his ideas — which were accepted, first slowly, then with eagerness.

He was elected a fellow of the Royal Society in 1974 and was awarded the Copley Medal in 1981. He received, starting with Exeter in 1977, numerous honorary doctorates throughout the world. He had become a highly revered scientist of international standing. His work is now an essential part of any first year biochemistry course. All this was achieved from a small base; Mitchell himself together with a small band of associates, assistants and secretaries.

Peter Mitchell was an informal and unconventional man who wore gold studs in his earlobes and enjoyed a rich variety of interests including minting silver coins and restoring old houses. An accident during surgery had left him deaf in one ear, fairly deaf in the other and suffering from tinnitus. Of his tinnitus he said he thought, at first, that it would drive him mad but later came to regard it as a bonus because, by sometimes preventing him from sleeping, it enabled him to do more work.

In his entry in *Who's Who* Mitchell listed, as the first of his interests, the enjoyment of family life. He is survived by his second wife, Helen, whom he married in 1958, three sons and a daughter.

APPRECIATIONS

The Right Rev Charles Claxton



I BECAME a curate in a church in East Bristol in 1936 and within months Charles Claxton (obituary, April 11), who was the incumbent of a nearby church, treated me as a member of the family.

During the war both of us were involved in civil defence and were head officers of our respective areas in Bristol. When Charles moved to Liverpool we kept in touch and insofar as war-time permitted we exchanged visits. Later, when I became vicar of the University Church I saw him more frequently as both of us were Cambridge men, as were his sons whom he came to visit.

My appointment to the bishopric of Southwark in 1959 increased the opportunities for meeting and time and again he stayed at Bishop's House or we had meals at the House of Lords. We had an unwritten rule that we should avoid professional chatter. Our interests were confined to personal and secular affairs and as a result I know as little about his episcopate of Blackburn as he did of mine at Southwark. We were friends for friendship's sake.

I have dozens of memories. My favourite is associated with a holiday in North Wales. We decided to climb Snowdon. For Charles it was a more demanding undertaking than for myself as he was both older and three stone

heavier. On our return journey we had to hasten as we were overdue for a cocktail party at Lady Megan Lloyd George's home. When we eventually arrived Megan, in accepting our apologies, asked Charles: "And how much does it now cost to take the mountain railway to the summit?"

He had as little use for synodical proceedings as I had and we regarded modern developments in church government as a disaster and a shocking waste of money.

When I stayed with him in Devon I expressed a delight in a delicious local pâté which was made in Budleigh Salterton. A few days before he died he arranged for a packet of this pâté to be sent to me to keep me afloat during the rigours of Lent. He was a very dear and beloved Brother in Christ with whom I shared a friendship for more than half a century.

Bishop Mervyn Stockwood

Lord Evans of Claughton



MAY I correct an omission to the otherwise excellent obituary of Lord Evans of Claughton (March 27). In addition to his many other activities you mentioned, Lord Evans was also president of the National Association of Warehouse Keepers from 1983 to 1989 when he resigned because of ill-health. During his period of office Lord Evans, or "Griff" as he was affectionately known, was a staunch supporter and representative of the association and worked tirelessly in promoting the association and the warehousing industry.

He quickly established a reputation for commonsense and plain speaking which he tempered with wit and a keen sense of humour, qualities

which immediately endeared him to the membership. The association's executive council will remember "Griff" Evans with affection and appreciation for the support and encouragement he gave to them.

Eric Brown

Sir Raghavan Pillai

WITH the death of Sir Raghavan Pillai, known variously as "Rag" or "NR" (obituary, April 4) we have lost a true friend and gentleman of the world. I am reminded of the correspondence in your columns in 1976 or thereabouts regarding the return of the Elgin Marbles to Athens (now re-opened by your leading article of April 6). The correspondence developed to

include other treasures acquired by the British from various parts of their Empire and someone suggested that the legendary Koh-i-noor diamond should be returned to India.

The subject was brought to a close by a letter from Rag in which he said that, although the diamond rightfully belonged to India he felt that Indians everywhere were happy for it to remain where it was (and still is) among the Crown Jewels.

Allison Bajpai

STUART SURRIDGE



Stuart Surridge, statistically the most successful captain in the history of the county cricket championship, who led Surrey to the title in each of his five years in charge, 1952-56, died on April 13 aged 74. He was born on September 3, 1917.

STUART Surridge's run with Surrey established a record without parallel. The county subsequently extended their run of championships to seven in 1957 and 1958 under the captaincy of Peter May. The key to Surridge's success was the dynamic drive with which he wielded his men into a formidable combination. His policy of harnessing the opposition was encapsulated in his formula for captaincy: "Attack all the time, whether batting, bowling or fielding."

If he was fortunate to have under his charge a county side boasting such outstanding players as May, Ken Barrington, Alec Bedser, Peter Loader, Jim Laker and Tony Lock, it was when these star performers were away on England duty that Surrey — and Surridge — showed the depths of their resources.

Walter Stuart Surridge was born at Herne Hill, within two miles of The Oval, the son of a noted maker of sports goods. Educated at Emanuel School, Wandsworth, he captained the First XI in 1935. He had kept wicket for several years before turning his hand to fast bowling, principally because there was no one else to do the job. While still at school, he appeared for Surrey Young Players and later played for Surrey seconds in the Minor Counties championship.

Partly, perhaps, because of the war, Surridge did not win a place in Surrey's championship side until 1947, when he was almost 30. In the following year, he turned in several fine performances with his enthusiastic fast bowling, in which he used to full advantage his 6ft 11ins. He did even better in 1949 and in 1950 contributed to Surrey's sharing the championship with Lancashire.

Surridge always insisted that he was no more than a good club cricketer, an over-modest assessment. In a 13-year career he took 506 wickets at 28.89 and

scored 3,882 runs at 12.94. Both his highest score, 87 against Glamorgan, and his best bowling figures, seven for 49 against Lancashire, came at The Oval in 1951. He was never chosen for the Gentlemen at Lord's, or by England.

He was at his best and his happiest, though, when leading Surrey. Two of Surrey's most regular match-winners during the 1950s were Laker and Lock, whose triumphs were so often masterminded by Surridge. While Surridge used to let Laker have his head, he would be inclined to chide and chase Lock. This pair of great spin bowlers was supported by an outstanding ring of close catchers not least of whom was Surridge himself, whose spectacular catching had an unsettling effect on many opposing teams.

One of Surrey's most famous victories under Surridge was outside the championship when, in 1956, they became the first county for 44 years to beat the Australians. Laker took all ten wickets for 88 runs in the Australian first innings and after the match the Australian captain, Ian Johnson, presented his cap to Surridge. During the period Surridge was captain, Surrey played 170 matches, won 101, drew 42 and lost only 27.

After his playing days were over, Surridge, who was Surrey president in 1981, concentrated on the family business, which became one of the biggest and best known of bat and ball makers. The willow trees from which some of the bats were made grew on two of Surridge's farms. The business is now in the hands of his son, who played for Surrey in 1978.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Sir James Clark Ross, Arctic explorer, London, 1800; Henry James, writer, New York, 1843; Bliss Carman, poet, Fredericton, New Brunswick, 1861.

DEATHS: Richard Mulcaister, author, Stamford Rivers, Essex, 1811; Hubert Robert, landscape painter, Paris, 1808; John Bell, surgeon, Rome, 1820; Matthew Arnold, poet and critic, Liverpool, 1888; Father Damien, Belgian missionary, Molokai Island, Hawaii, 1889; John Singer Sargent, portrait painter, London, 1925; Michael Flanders, actor and writer, Bewsey-Coed, 1975; Jean-Paul Sartre, philosopher and writer, Paris, 1980; Jean Genet, dramatist, 1986.

Mutiny of the Navy at Spithead, 1797. The SS *Titanic* struck an iceberg near Newfoundland on its maiden voyage and sank with the loss of 1,513 lives, 1912.

Appointments

Latest appointments include: Mr Peter Heaz to be Ambassador to Brazil, in succession to Mr M. J. Newington, who will be retiring from the Diplomatic Service.

Dr Leslie Arnold Turnbull, professor of medicine at Manchester University, to be President of the Royal College of Physicians, from July 30, in succession to Dame Margaret Turner-Warwick.

Church news

Mr Richard Bloor and Mr Paul Morris to be joint registrars of the diocese of Leicester, in succession to Mr Graham Moore.

Sale room

£66,000 for SOS from the Titanic

By SARAH JANE CHECKLAND, SALEROOM CORRESPONDENT

A NEW record for *Titanic* disaster memorabilia was set at Christie's yesterday when a set of 85 urgent radio signal messages fetched £66,000. The estimate was £8,000 to £10,000.

The faded yellow pages included the last message from the ship, which had been declared unsinkable, saying: "Sinking. Wants immediate assistance." It had been sent to the Baltic another ship in the vicinity. The buyer bid anonymously by telephone. Christie's South Kensington timed its sale to coincide with the 80th anniversary of the biggest mercantile shipping disaster. The *Titanic* was on its maiden voyage from Southampton to New York in 1912 when, on Sunday April 14, it struck an iceberg and sank the next morning.

The record breaking lot came from a set of 448 messages hand written on the forms of the Marconi International Marine Communications Company. The signals, which were translated from Morse code by the company's operators, had

been returned to the telegraph companies after the close of the British enquiry into the disaster. They were dispersed in 1948 when Cable & Wireless, the company's successor, was nationalised.

The messages were discovered recently by John Booth, a collector, and provide information on the events leading to the sinking. Christie's had estimated the consignment at £30,000, but potential buyers, including a Yorkshireman who set off for London at 3.00 yesterday with a bundle of £50 notes, were far more keen than had been expected. Having failed to get the top lot, the Yorkshireman secured another Marconi message dated April 3, ten days before the disaster.

The message, from "Commander Titanic" and saying "success to you. NW wind fine and clear" had been transmitted by "Ph", thought to be John Phillips, the senior wireless operator, who was soon to be lost at sea. It was estimated at £250 to £450, and sold for £3,850.

Dinners

United and Cecil Club
Mr Sydney Chapman, MP, a Vice-Chairman of the United and Cecil Club, was host at a dinner held last night at the St Stephen's Constitutional Club. Lord Coleridge presided. Sir Graham Day was the principal guest and Mr Lewis Moss also spoke.

Women's Advertising Club

Mme Christine Oakrent was the guest of honour and speaker at a dinner of the Women's Advertising Club of London held last night at the Savoy Hotel. Miss Barbara Scott, president, was in the chair.

Cutlers' Company
Mr G.W. Walker, Master of the Cutlers' Company, presented the Cutlers' surgical prize for 1992 to Mr A.W. Majed for his invention of the Sheffield Choleystoscope. The presentation was made at the annual surgical award dinner held last night at Cutlers' Hall. The Master presided and the Master of the Barber's Company and Mr C.V.M. Latham also spoke. Among others present were

The President and the Secretary of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, the President and the Honorary Secretary of the Association of Surgeons of Great Britain and Ireland and the Master of the Society of Apothecaries of London.

Luncheon

British Red Cross
Mr Terry Holmes was host at a luncheon held yesterday at the Ritz Hotel for the British Red Cross. Miss Jean Bohn and Mr John Gray, director of public affairs, British Red Cross, were the speakers.

Air show dispute

German rival to Farnborough

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

MOSCOW is to join Berlin in a twin-pronged assault on the pre-eminence of Farnborough and Paris as centres of the European aerospace industry.

A big new air show is to be held in Berlin in June — just three months before the Farnborough show — and now the German organisers have persuaded the Russians to hold an international exhibition in Moscow within weeks of the 1993 Paris Air Show.

The German Aerospace Industries Association, BDLI, has been trying for more than ten years to persuade the British and the French to include Berlin in a three-year rotation of air shows. They met with stubborn opposition, however, especially from the French.

The reunification of Germany provided them with the opportunity of using Berlin's Schönefeld airport for an exhibition aimed at attracting both buyers and sellers of aircraft and associated equipment from the west and from the former eastern bloc.

Dr Hans Birke, presiding manager of BDLI, said in London yesterday that if the

show is a success, as now seems likely, the organisers of Paris and Farnborough will be forced to negotiate.

"The market will decide about the future," he said. "We will definitely have another in Berlin in 1994 by which time there will be four major air shows: Paris, Farnborough, Berlin and Moscow. Then we will be able to restructure ourselves."

"I think we should have one European air show a year and this should be rotated through the capitals. Now is not the time to launch it, however, but once we have seen how successful our show will be and once the Russian show is in being, we will certainly ask for new talks."

Already almost all the exhibition space has been sold for Berlin and well over half a million people are expected to attend.

The former eastern bloc is seen as the biggest potential market for aerospace over the next 15 years with the Commonwealth of Independent States alone needing to buy 2,550 new medium and long range aircraft by the middle of the next century.

April 15 ON THIS DAY 1937



This article was compiled by The Times Correspondent in India from the diary of a member of the British Political Mission to Lhasa.

PAGEENTRY IN LHASA

We were invited by the Tibetan Government to witness the first of the ceremonies connected with the Tibetan New Year. With sound reasoning, the Tibetans hold that before you can hope to celebrate an auspicious New Year all the evil influences which have accumulated during the Old Year must be driven out. Accordingly on the twenty-ninth day of the last month a devil dance takes place in the great Eastern Court of the Potala.

The red, black and yellow pelms over the windows flap and belly in the chilly north wind. Three blasts of the great silver trumpets herald the approach of the Lama band, who take up their places with their drums, cymbals, and trumpets in a gaily embroidered tent which occupies all the northern side of the courtyard.

More blasts of the trumpets and the curtains, embroidered with dragons in red and gold, part again. Two dancers in demon masks run down the steps, scatter rice from bowls held by monk attendants, and entering the courtyard, begin their dance. It consists of slow turns and pirouettes with arms outstretched and gesticulating in time with the ponderous rhythm of trumpets, drums and cymbals. Soon they turn and hurry back up the staircase, to be succeeded by about eight more pairs of grotesquely masked dancers, some with stags' heads, some with bulls' heads, but the majority in fierce, grinning masks of scarlet, gold and green displaying rows of fangs and crowned with skulls. When the last of these pairs has retired the crowd suddenly begins to whistle. This is the traditional

reception for the skeleton dance.

DALAI LAMA'S DREAM

Four skeleton dancers with two attendant heads appear on the stairs mopping and mowing and scattering ashes to right and left from their dancing bony fingers. They dance round the crude presentation of a corpse which has been laid in the middle of the dancing space. An aged man with a long grey beard totters round the court playing the fool and finally has a tremendous struggle with a tiger skin rug. This part of the performance is an innovation of the late Dalai Lama, who dreamt the scene when he was in China.

The skeletons scamper away, and the trumpets herald the chief actor, a black magician who is to lead the remainder of the ceremony. He is dressed in brocade robes embroidered with the Dorje thunderbolt and with skulls. He wears an apron of bones and on his head is a tall black hat with an enormous brim and topped by a fan-shaped ornament of peacock's feathers. He dances, still to the same rhythm, which continues through the whole ceremony, weaving spells with the skull, which he holds in one hand, and the Dorje, which he holds in the other.

His movements are fluent and graceful beyond those of the other dancers. Soon a procession of monks appears, bearing golden censers and sticks of incense and blowing shrill trumpets. They lead into the dancing floor some 20 black hat dancers dressed like the chief magician but without the bone apron. The attendant dancers follow his movements, turning and swaying slowly to the well-defined rhythm, now pierced occasionally by the shrill note of small silver horns. Finally water and blood are let, gold and green displaying rows of fangs and crowned with skulls and the dancers take a well-earned rest after dancing continuously for about two and a half hours.

BA sues Richard Branson for libel

By HARVEY ELLIOTT
AIR CORRESPONDENT

THE bitter dispute between British Airways and Virgin Atlantic with each accusing the other of "dirty tricks" is to be publicly aired in the High Court this summer.

At a hearing in chambers before Mr Justice Drake yesterday, it was agreed that Virgin's action alleging defamation against BA should be heard at the first opportunity after June 15. At the same time, BA filed its counter-claim alleging libel by the Virgin chairman, Richard Branson.

BA's legal director Mervyn Walker said yesterday: "For several months we have endured a campaign of very serious allegations made against us by Virgin and Richard Branson. We have made it clear throughout that those accusations are untrue. They have left us with no other choice than to take formal action seeking redress for the libel they have perpetrated against us."

Virgin denied BA's allegations and said that the issues were important enough to need to go to trial early. Virgin has also employed Sir Freddie Laker's American lawyer Robert Beckman with a view to taking legal proceedings against BA in the US courts.

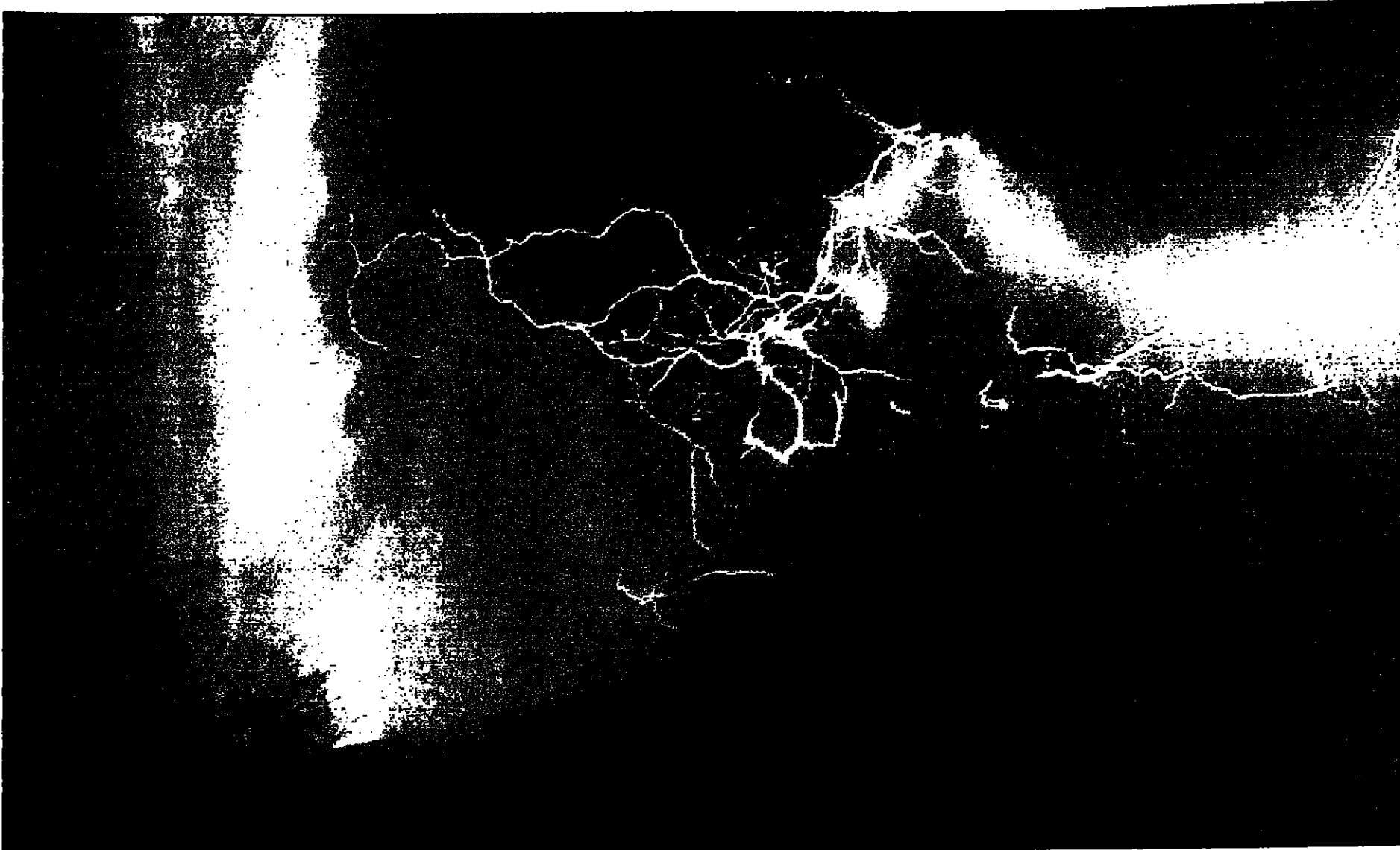
World court rejects plea by Tripoli

Continued from page 1
national protection, but felt that the court was underestimating its powers in this particular case.

Mr Berman said the court had delivered a "very clear and strong argument" against Libya. Edwin Williamson, the American State Department's legal adviser, said the case showed that in such instances the ruling of the security council took precedence over the court, which is the UN's own court of justice.

Last month Mr Williamson had accused Libya of being the first state in the court's history "trying to use the court to undo the work of the security council."

Libya defiant, page 7



Forces of nature: lightning flashed as the Cerro Negro volcano erupted again, raining thick clouds of ash on Leon, in Nicaragua. Local authorities report that at least 15,000 people have been moved from their homes since the eruptions began on Thursday night after 21 years of dormancy.

Marines return to battle with Mount Etna

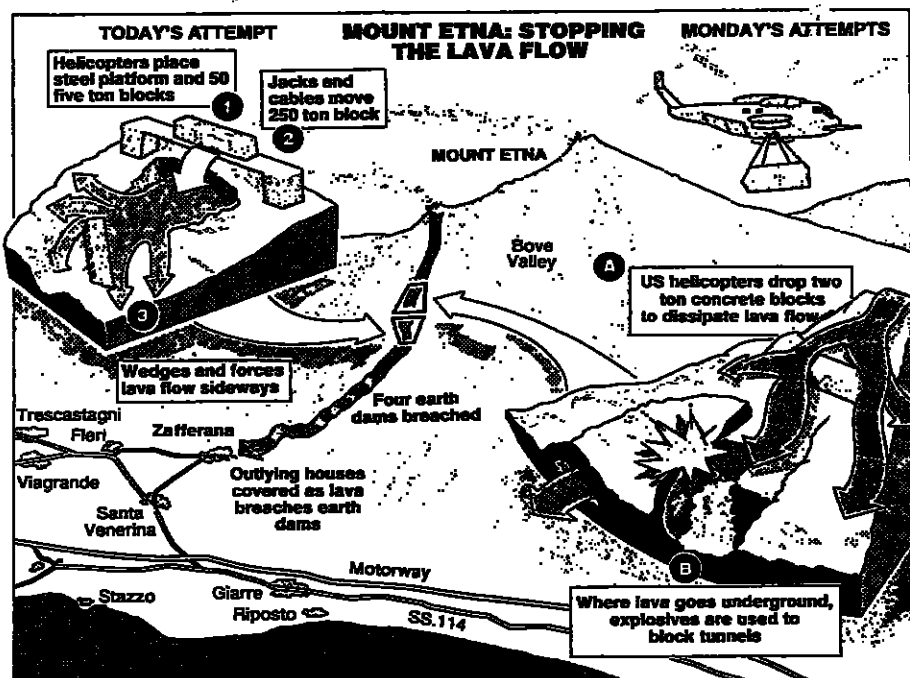
FROM PAUL BOMPARD
IN ZAFFERANA

LAVA from Mount Etna yesterday broke over the last earthenwork barrier shielding the town of Zafferana. Giuseppe Fichera, the owner of the first house to be engulfed, had painted "thank you, government" on the side of his house and set out a bottle of wine on the veranda, "so Etna can drink to my health".

The remorseless tide of black, porous rubble driven by a 1,000°C core glimmering below the crumbling crust, also incinerated hundreds of fruit trees and grape vines. One of Zafferana's oldest inhabitants remarked: "Every now and then Etna likes to make his voice heard, to remind us all that he is always there."

In the pre-dawn darkness yesterday, the glowing river lit up low clouds to a deep magenta as it snaked down the mountain. By last night it was still 800 yards from Zafferana proper last night and volcanologists estimated it would take several days to reach the edge of town. It also seemed likely that it would flow down a shallow valley, skirting the town, causing relatively little damage to buildings.

Late yesterday, Italian army engineers set off an explosion which the authorities claimed had reduced the lava flow by up to 50 per cent. Efforts on Monday to staunch the flow upstream



with explosives and concrete blocks had failed, but were described by the civil protection authorities as "encouraging experiments". Today a new attempt will be made. A massive steel platform will be placed over the stream where it emerges from an underground tunnel. On the platform about 50 concrete blocks, weighing five tons each, will be placed and tied together with steel cables and chains. Then, with more cables and hydraulic jacks, the 250-ton mass will be tumbled into the lava in the hope

that it will slide down to a narrower point about 50 yards downstream and at least partly block the flow. That would make the lava expand sideways, out of the channel and into depressions on either side in which it would spread out and cool, relieving pressure on the front menacing Zafferana.

The engineering of the project has been entrusted almost entirely to US Navy and Marine Corps units from the nearby Nato base of Sigonella. Yesterday, American navy engineers on a plateau high on Mount Etna were welding together the platform, while two Black Stallion helicopters of the marine corps stood by ready to lift the platform and the concrete blocks to the lava stream.

In contrast with the "can do" mentality of the Americans, the townspeople of Zafferana appeared very fatalistic. "I have been praying to the Madonna," said Grazia Vasta, whose house is in the part of Zafferana closest to the lava. "We have more faith in her than in the government."

Philip Howard, page 12

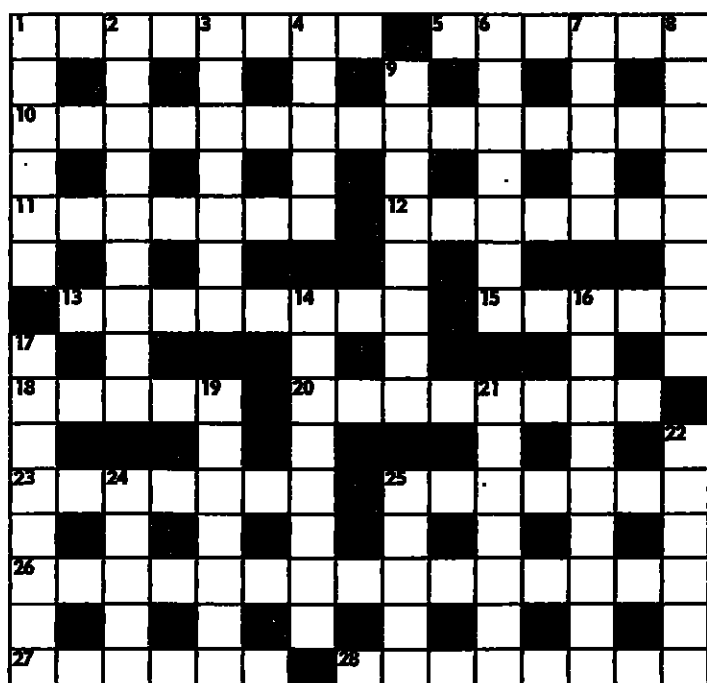
Labour tax challenge by Gould

Continued from page 1
leadership is now settled. The question of the leadership must not be rushed," he said. Mr Gould appealed for more time so that Labour could examine its policies in the course of the leadership contest, as he said, there was "hard thinking" to be done. Mr Kinnoch wanted to step down quickly so that Labour could get its new leaders and shadow cabinet in place before the summer parliamentary recess. Party sources suggested last night that the shadow cabinet elections could be completed in time.

The Labour leader said he left the meeting that the chosen date was "in keeping with the constitution. It is quick, and will permit me, I hope, for the election of the shadow cabinet before the summer recess, so the Conservative government does not get a free ride."

Rivals' programmes, page 2
Diary, page 12
Letters, page 13

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,893



ACROSS
1 Form of land-tenure to crib and confine... (8).
5 ...tenant, reduced by contents of used (6).
10 The establishment where the top bars could be ordered (3,6,4,2).
11 Sticks on course (7).
12 Guy is attached to girl on Spanish wine... (4-3).
13 ...second glass for a tripper (8).
15 The answer that is pipped? (5).
18 Old doctor gives shelter to church leaders (5).
20 From a pack of cards, deal a jack (4-4).
23 Crazy utterances in some papers about French wine (7).
25 Appear to accept favourite challenge (7).
26 He may handle bins and pieces in his study (15).

Solution to Puzzle No 18,892
G A T C H D E A D L Y S I N
A U E R G I U A
P A L P I T A T E V I S A S
I R F L E E P A
I M P E L T R E A M I L L
V O E S C
A B A L O N E S H E R I F F
T P M X O I
E X P O S E D G L A N E R
E I O R E
P R A G M A T I C C E A S E
L I G H T C E S T I N A
U N I T E O V E R S I G H T
M N M R N E L I G H T
B I G H E A D E D S T E R

DOWN
1 Hear end of elegy that is haunting (6).
2 Promenade concert performer, she? (9).
3 Clyde, for example, requires cowd on chimney (7).
4 City's refuse overwhelms dustmen's leader (5).
6 The loan arranged for alcohol (7).
7 Establish lead at Wimbledon, say? (3,2).
8 Coming out, met Green characters in revolt (6).
9 Inscrutable eastern drunkard on rice concoction (6).
14 Model of Polaris? (8).
16 Idiosyncrasy of Italian art-style (9).
17 Single reed blown in the wind (6).
19 The beginnings of employers' liability to support workmen—a new venture (7).
21 Border security-device that can kill people (7).
22 Digger who may ring for service (6).
24 Makes up notes and films (5).
25 Body giving out in Gloucester, for example (5).

Concise Crossword, page 13
Life & Times section

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which definitions are correct?

By Philip Howard
PRODIGIOUS
a. Deserving a reward
b. In favour of the right wing
c. Traitorous
ENURETIC
a. Understatement
b. Bed-wetting
c. Necktie rash
POSTIL
a. Rider of a carriage horse
b. A marginal note
c. A gatepost
AMORT
a. As if dead
b. To pay off a mortgage
c. A scrap of food
Answers on page 14

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0838 401 followed by the appropriate code

London & SE
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M-ways/roads M1-Dartford T 733
M-ways/roads Dartford T-M25 734
M-ways/roads M25-M4 735
M25 London Orbital only 736
National
National motorways 737
West Country 738
Wales 739
East Anglia 740
North-west England 741
North-east England 742
Scotland 743
Northern Ireland 744
745
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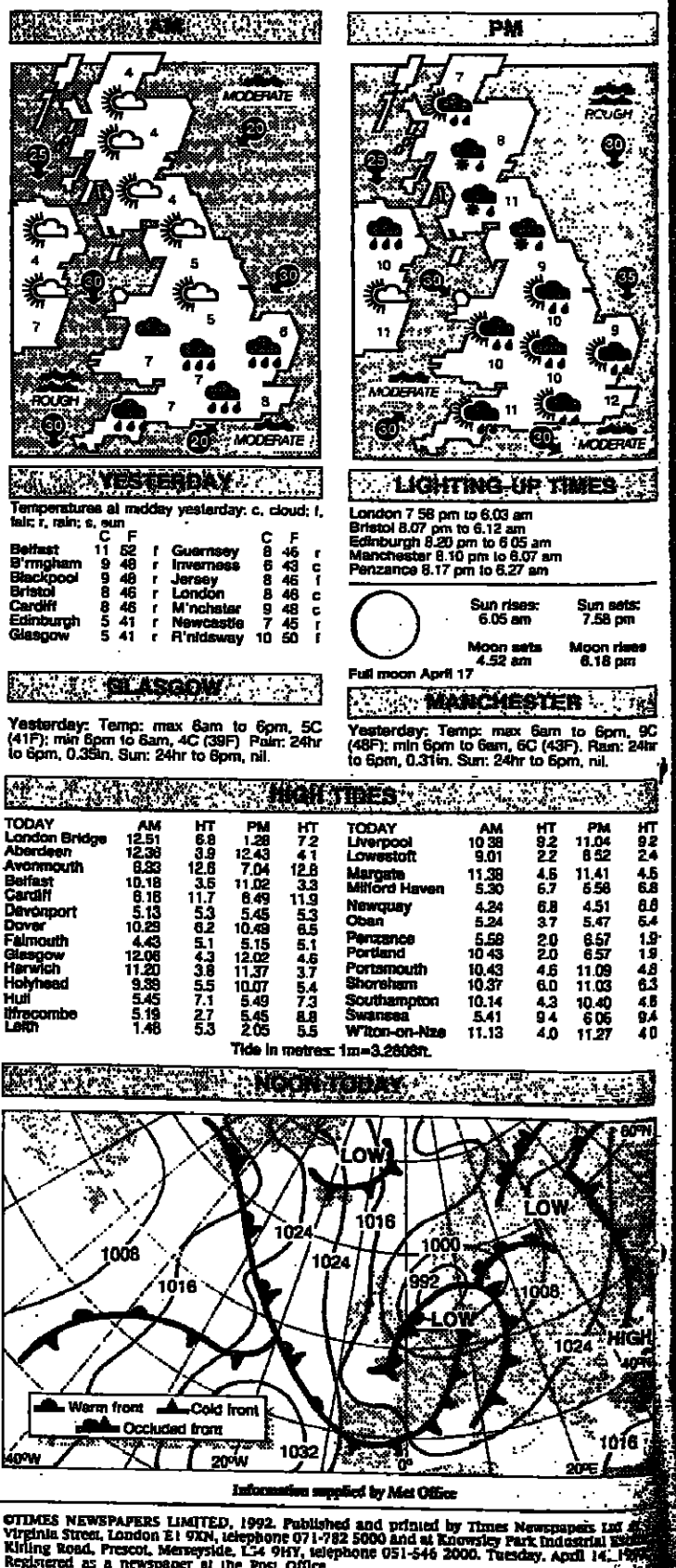
Thick cloud and rain over southeast and southern England will soon be replaced by brighter weather already over the rest of Britain. Showers developing later, many heavy and squally, while over Scotland and higher hills of England and Wales some may be of sleet or snow. Showers will die out inland but will persist on windward coasts. Outlook: bright and cold with further showers, heavier in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

MIDDAY: 1=thunder; 2=drizzle; 3=fog; 4=rain; 5=sleet; 6=snow; 7=fair; 8=cloud; 9=rain	Temp	Wind	Humidity	Cloud	Pressure
Aberdeen	10	10	10	10	10
Adelaide	10	10	10	10	10
Amsterdam	10	10	10	10	10
Ankara	10	10	10	10	10
Athens	10	10	10	10	10
Bahia	10	10	10	10	10
Bangkok	10	10	10	10	10
Barcelona	10	10	10	10	10
Bombay	10	10	10	10	10
Buenos Aires	10	10	10	10	10
Calcutta	10	10	10	10	10
Cairo	10	10	10	10	10
Cardiff	10	10	10	10	10
Cebu	10	10	10	10	10
Chennai	10	10	10	10	10
Copenhagen	10	10	10	10	10
Dakar	10	10	10	10	10
Dhaka	10	10	10	10	10
Dublin	10	10	10	10	10
Edinburgh	10	10	10	10	10
Hankow	10	10	10	10	10
Hong Kong	10	10	10	10	10
Kobe	10	10	10	10	10
London	10	10	10	10	10
Lyons	10	10	10	10	10
Manila	10	10	10	10	10
Medan	10	10	10	10	10
Mumbai	10	10	10	10	10
Nairobi	10	10	10	10	10
Osaka	10	10	10	10	10
Paris	10	10	10	10	10
Peking	10	10	10	10	10
Rangoon	10	10	10	10	10
Rio de Janeiro	10	10	10	10	10
Sao Paulo	10	10	10	10	10
Seoul	10	10	10	10	10
Shanghai	10	10	10	10	10
Singapore	10	10	10	10	10
Sydney	10	10	10	10	10
Taipei	10	10	10	10	10
Tokyo	10	10	10	10	10
Yokohama	10	10	10	10	10

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0831 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Greater London	701
Kent, Surrey, Sussex	702
Devon & Cornwall	703
Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, Herefordshire	704
Berkshire, Oxfordshire	705
Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire	706
Northamptonshire, Leicestershire	707
Lincolnshire, East Angles	708
East Midlands	709
East of England	710
West Midlands	711
West of England	712
W & S Yorkshire & Wales	713
North Wales	714
South Wales	715
W & S Yorkshire & Wales	716
North Wales	717
South Wales	718
W & S Yorkshire & Wales	719
North Wales	720
South Wales	721
W & S Yorkshire & Wales	722
North Wales	723
South Wales	724
W & S Yorkshire & Wales	725
North Wales	726
South Wales	727

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Currie snubs Major over job

Continued from page 1
light of widespread and well-informed indications that she was to be invited back into the fold despite publicly criticising Mr Major's soapbox electioneering.

The bemusement generated by the latest twist in the saga of her career distracted attention from the prime minister's far-reaching shake-up of the middle and junior ranks of the government. His aim was to unlock talent from all parts of the party and to bring into office experienced heavyweights who had languished on the back benches under Margaret Thatcher.

Among the long-serving MPs entering the government for the first time are Jonathan Aitken, MP for Thanet South, Michael Mates, MP for East Hampshire and a close supporter of Michael Heseltine, Alistair Burt, Bury North, Nigel Forman, Carshalton and Wallington, Anthony Nelson, Chichester, Steven Norris, Epping Forest, Robin Squire, Hornchurch, Charles Wardle, Bexhill and Battle, Nicholas Soames, Crawley, and Gwyn Jones, Cardiff North. Most of them hail from the left of the party.

The biggest promotions went to Stephen Dorrell, moved from a junior health post to financial secretary to the Treasury, Richard Needham, from Northern Ireland, to Mr Heseltine's trade department, Mr Mates, brought in at minister of state level in Northern Ireland, Robert Atkins, transferred from sport to Northern Ireland, Peter Lloyd, promoted within the Home Office, Michael Jack, promoted to the Home Office from social security, and Alastair Goodlad, switched from deputy chief whip to the Foreign Office.

David Currie also moved up a step at the agriculture ministry and Jonathan Aitken was made minister of state at the defence department. Baroness Blatch was made minister of state at the education department. David MacLean was promoted from a junior job at agriculture to a mid-ranking post at environment. Michael Forsyth, the Thatcherite middle-ranking minister in the Scottish Office, was switched to employment at the same rank. Angela Rumbold, minister of state at the Home Office, left the government but becomes deputy party chairman.

BUSINESS
FOCUS
SPORT
TODAY
WIDER
WAR
RIP
TV CHA
VIVA
The region
hopes the
opening
Monday
local
Focus p
THE
US dollar
1.7695 (+0.00)
German mark
2.9121 (+0.00)
Exchange i
91.8 (+0.1)
Bank of England
close (4pm)
STOCK
FT 30 shar
2014.9 (+9.4)
FT-SE 100
2600.5 (+9.5)
New York
3292.49 (+22)
Tokyo Nikkei
17439.58 (+12)
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3-month interba
3-month electri
US: Prime Rate
Federal Funds 3
3-month Treas
30-year bonds 1
CURE
London:
£ 51.778
£ 1242.9131
£ SWF2.6784
£ FF9.9831
£ Yen25.17
£ Index-51.8
ECU 16.70231
£ ECU 42203
London forex
G
London Floo
AM \$338.80 p
close \$339.00
191.80
New York
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● BUSINESS NEWS 17-23
● FOCUS: ANDALUSIA 24-26
● SPORT 27-32

WEDNESDAY APRIL 15 1992

BUSINESS EDITOR JOHN BELL

If deal goes through, it will create London bank with assets of £145bn

Hongkong offer for Midland disappoints City

By NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE Hongkong and Shanghai Bank has launched a £3.1 billion bid for Midland in a deal that will, if successful, create one of the world's largest and most international banks.

City investors, however, denounced the offer as too low and hopes rose of a counter offer from Lloyds even though the deal has been approved by Midland's board.

HSBC Holdings, the holding company of the Hongkong Bank, is offering one of its own shares and a 100p bond for every share in Midland. The offer values Midland's shares at 378p each. Institutions had hoped to receive at least 400p a share.

In a concession to win the approval of the Bank of England, HSBC has agreed to move its head office to the City. William Purves, HSBC's chairman and chief executive, will move his office to London in September next year, and the Bank of England will become HSBC's lead regulator.

HSBC has also agreed to become registered as a British taxpayer from the beginning of next year. The bank has set £200 million to cover its initial tax liabilities, and the group's earnings are expected to be hit as its tax charge rises. In the offer document, HSBC finally revealed its hidden reserves. They stand at

HK\$16.6 billion (£1.14 billion), higher than forecasts. The reserves will boost the enlarged bank's capital strength and the group's basic capital ratio is expected to be 10.9 per cent, well above the 8 per cent regulatory minimum.

The extent of disillusionment with the deal in the City became clear at lunch when Hoare Govett, the securities house, failed to place 60 million Midland shares, a 7.7 per cent stake believed to belong to the Kuwait Investment Office, at 362p a share. Midland's shares fell 7p to 365p. Peter Toeman, an analyst at UBS Phillips & Drew, the broker, said the institutions were unimpressed by the offer. "This is certainly not a knock-out price," he said. Midland's shares were trading at 253p before the deal was announced.

If the deal does go through, it will create a bank with assets of £145 billion, and 3,300 offices in 68 countries throughout Europe, Asia, Australia and North America. Profits of the combined group last year were £845 million, and are expected to rise sharply as Midland recovers from the recession in Britain. Midland's profits last year were just £36 million.

The enlarged bank's shares will be quoted in London and Hong Kong and become a constituent in both the FT-SE 100 and Hang Seng indices. The group will set aside £190 million for the costs of the merger. John Gray, HSBC's deputy chairman, said the new group will be able to expand through rationalisation and increased business revenues and would be protected against a downturn anywhere in the world.

Brian Pearce, Midland's chief executive, said that the bank had come to the conclusion that the deal was "the best available option for our customers and staff."

Colony learns secret and welcomes offer

FROM LULU YU IN HONG KONG

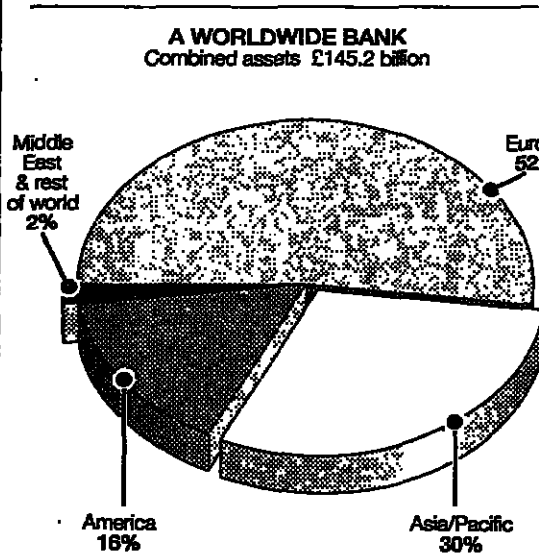
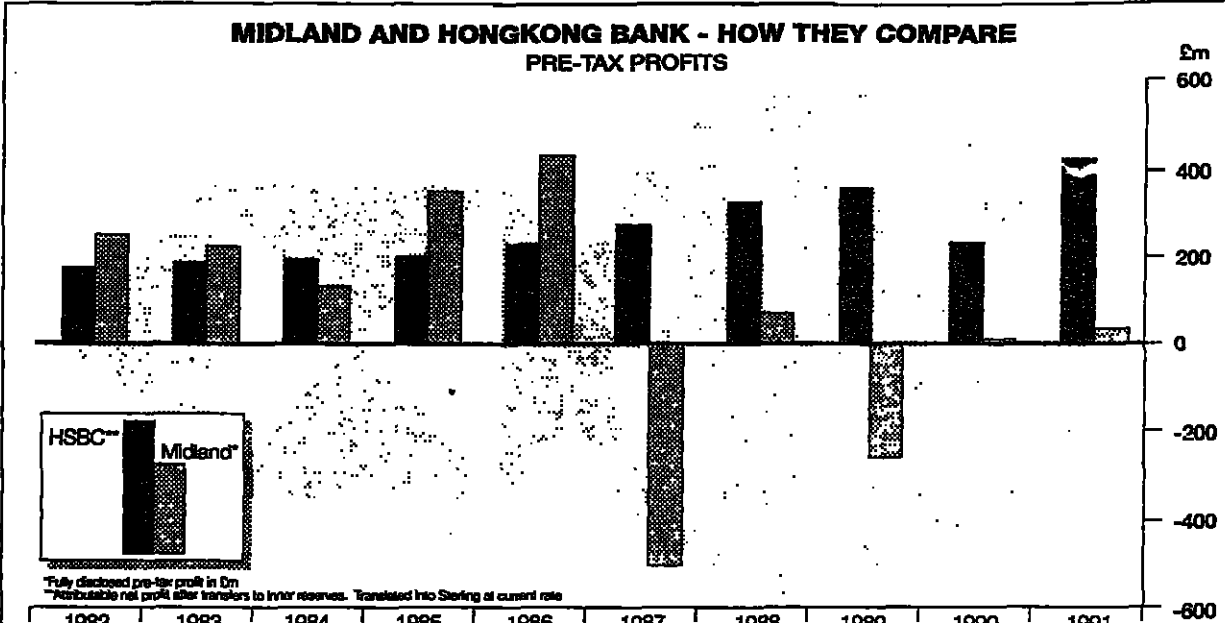
HONG KONG'S financial community last night embraced Hongkong Bank's unexpectedly low offer for the Midland group with relief. They are also pleased with the revelation of the bank's hidden reserves of HK\$16.6 billion (£1.14 billion).

Shares in HSBC Holdings, Hongkong Bank's parent, are expected to surge after falling nearly 12 per cent since the Midland plans were announced on March 17.

A rise in Hongkong Bank prices is bound to make the proposed deal even more attractive as Midland shareholders are being offered shares and bonds. The financial community here had feared the deal might hurt Hongkong Bank shareholders by making them pay a high price for the political safety net it wants before China runs the colony in 1997.

turned skepticism into joy, with analysts hailing the proposed offer as a bargain. Even the news that HSBC Holdings's earnings will be hit when it begins to pay British corporation tax next year did not dent enthusiasm.

"The turnaround in perception could spur an upward spiral for the share prices of both HSBC and Midland, and create an excellent deal out of nothing," a merchant banker said. The only uncertainty that remains is China's reaction. Peking's displeasure with companies shifting domicile and assets out of Hong Kong is well-known. Since merger plans were revealed last month, China has accused Hongkong Bank of making a political move at shareholders' expense. Peking is expected to continue to call on the bank to be cautious and responsible.



INTERNATIONAL COMPARISON
Gross assets (billion)

Dai-ichi Kangyo	£270
Sakura	£270
Bank America/Security Pacific	£111
Citicorp	£131
Bank of Montreal	£144
Deutsche Bank	£151
Barclays Bank	£138
National Westminster Bank	£123
HSBC/Midland Bank	£145

Lloyds merger would be 'debilitating'

By OUR BANKING CORRESPONDENT

BRIAN Pearce, Midland's chief executive, said yesterday he had rejected an approach from Lloyds because it would have caused a "severe debilitating effect on the staff and customers in both banks."

City fund managers, however, are hoping for a bid from Lloyds to lift the offer price for Midland, even though both Lloyds and the Bank of England are thought to oppose a hostile bid.

Mr Pearce said there had been considerable speculation over whether Midland had been approached by another British clearing bank. "It is really most un-

likely that such a merger would be allowed on competition grounds with such a concentration of business," he said.

"A referral to the authorities, a process which would last many months, would be likely to cause great uncertainty among our customers and staff. The prospect of massive redundancies would have a severe debilitating effect. Our board would have to keep in mind what the real value would be left for shareholders at the end."

Brian Pitman, Lloyds' chief executive, is thought to have offered more than 400p a

share for Midland. A merger between Midland and Lloyds, if allowed by the monopolies commission, would cause hundreds of branch closures and more than 20,000 redundancies. Mr Pearce believes that this threat would destroy morale in Midland, and severely damage the bank's customer base.

Lloyds declined to comment on Mr Pearce's remarks, but HSBC's lower than expected offer increased speculation among fund managers that Lloyds might make a counter offer. The Bank of England is

thought to be opposed to any hostile bid for a bank that would destabilise the banking system and threaten depositors' interests. Any counter offer would have to win the Bank's blessing and be recommended by Midland. This is only likely to happen if Midland shareholders reject HSBC's terms.

News that Hoare Govett, Lloyds' brokers, yesterday failed to place a 7.7 per cent stake in Midland, thought to belong to the Kuwait Investment Office, suggests a counter bid is not imminent.

Comment, page 21

Factory output rises 1.1%

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

A SHARP pickup in industrial production and a rise in factory gate prices raised hopes that Britain's manufacturers may finally be starting to shake off the recession.

Unexpectedly strong government figures, showing manufacturing output jumping a provisional 1.1 per cent in February, after a revised 0.6 per cent fall in January, boosted sentiment for the pound. The currency rose close to DM2.92 at one stage, before profit-taking set in.

At the official London close at 4pm, it was DM2.9121, above Monday's close and second from bottom of the exchange-rate grid. A gain of almost half a cent to \$1.7695 lifted sterling's trade-weighted index up 0.1 to 91.8.

Overall industrial output, which encompasses the energy and manufacturing sectors, saw a seasonally adjusted 1.1 per cent rise in

February. This followed a fall of 1.2 per cent in January.

The Central Statistical Office cautioned against reading too much into one month's data, reinforcing the City view that talk of recovery this quarter is premature. The underlying trend in manufacturing still shows an annual 2.5 per cent fall, albeit a slowdown from the 3.5 per cent decline of last month.

In the latest three months, manufacturing output was 0.5 per cent below the previous three months, and still 2.9 per cent down on a year ago. Consumer goods gave the strongest showing in the latest three months, suggesting consumer-led recovery.

Mild weather led to a 2 per cent drop in energy output in the latest three months, but production was 4.4 per cent higher than the same period last year. Overall industrial output fell 1.9 per cent in the

latest three months, giving an annual fall of 1 per cent.

A producer prices pickup was seen by some economists as a sign of growing confidence. Output prices rose a provisional 0.8 per cent in March to 4.5 per cent up on March 1991. Although up on the annual 4.4 per cent rise in February, half of last month's increase was due to Budget easing duty changes. The underlying rate, excluding food, drink and tobacco, annual rise in the latest three months was 2.5 per cent, against 2.1 per cent in February.

Input prices, the cost of raw materials and fuel to manufacturers, fell an adjusted 0.5 per cent in February. The provisional annual rise slowed to 0.1 per cent from February's 0.9 per cent. In America, commerce department figures showed an 0.4 per cent fall in March retail sales.

Woodrow's matter of honour

COLIN Parsons, the new chairman of Taylor Woodrow, said it was a matter of honour that the final dividend was held at 7.64p a share after the construction group suffered a £2.7 million pre-tax loss (£86.1 million profit) for 1991.

"The severe recession and a number of very difficult contracts have hit our profits and property values," he said. A £11.5 million provision was made against its interest in Eurotunnel and a £3.8 million provision against the Euro Disney contract. There was a £46.5 million exceptional charge covering property writedowns, and a £23.6 million extraordinary charge covering the closure of American contracting businesses.

This year's dividend will depend on the pace of the recovery, the group said.

Tempus, page 20

Hard line taken over soft loans

FROM WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU IN BUDAPEST

THE controversy over a proposal by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development to grant soft loans for modernising heavy industry in eastern Europe has continued for the second day. Among the critics is Lynda Chalker, the reappointed head of the Overseas Development Agency, who spoke against widening the bank's responsibilities.

The bank's governors on Monday granted a mandate to Jacques Attali, its president, to investigate the feasibility of a special restructuring facility, which would involve soft loans and high-risk equity for the reconstruction of heavy indus-



Chalker: one of the critics

tries, including steel, defence and power generation. Mrs Chalker, said, however, "It is impossible to over-estimate the role of privatisation throughout the economy. A conversion of defence industries is a particular part of this challenge of

economic restructuring. But it is not clear that new facilities are needed."

Her statement signals that Britain fully supports the sceptical position taken by the US, which said on Monday that the bank should concentrate on the private sector and not try to be "all things to all people."

Theo Waigel, the German finance minister and the new chairman of the bank governors, suggested a compromise that would involve granting M Attali a reconstruction facility but with a tightly defined purpose. He suggested that the bank could prove useful in the reconstruction of eastern Europe's power generation.

On Monday, M Attali called for the closure of 16

out of 60 RBMK reactors, identical with that at Chernobyl, because of serious design faults. The restructuring facility could be used to encourage eastern Europe to build modern plants, which would allow the closure and the phasing out of existing facilities.

Herr Waigel said that any industrial reconstruction should be undertaken with a view of privatisation that is contrary to M Attali's assertion that certain industries warrant reconstruction even if they are, and are likely to remain, in the public sector. Herr Waigel said that eastern Europe had no alternative to fast privatisation. "If you want to jump over a precipice, don't try to do it in two steps," he said.

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TODAY IN BUSINESS

WIDER VISION



Ton Vosloo has a vision of spreading news throughout Africa after the transformation of South African business from pariah to acceptable partner. Page 21

WAR ON WAGES

Pay rises have been halved over the past 12 months and are running below the level of real inflation, according to the CBI. Page 19

BUILDING HOPE

Finding new businesses at the right time helped RMC, the building materials group, to beat City expectations. Tempus, page 20

RMC

TV CHALLENGE

The application list has opened for ITV's Channel 5 but there is no guarantee that it will ever be launched. Page 18

VIVA ESPAÑA

The region of Andalusia hopes that Expo '92, opening in Seville on Monday, will boost the local economy. Focus, pages 24-26

THE POUND

US dollar 1.7695 (+0.0068)
German mark 2.9121 (+0.0019)
Exchange index 91.8 (+0.1)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 2014.9 (+9.4)
FT-SE 100 2600.5 (+9.5)
New York Dow Jones 3292.49 (+22.59)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 17439.58 (+202.93)

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base 10 1/2%
3-month interbank 10 1/2-10 3/4%
3-month Europe bills 10 1/2-9 3/4%
US Prime Rate 8 1/2%
Federal Funds 3 1/2-3 3/4%
3-month Treasury Bills 3 3/4-3 1/2%
30-year bonds 10 1/2-10 1/4%

CURRENCIES

London: New York £ \$1.7702
Frankfurt £ DM 2.9131
Paris £ FF 12.2784
Rome £ Lit 1,336.17
Zurich £ Sfr 1.5275
ECU £ 1.9360
SDR £ 1.7791
SDR £ 1.7791
SDR £ 1.7791

GOLD

London Fixing: A.M. \$338.80 p.m. \$339.00
Close \$339.00-339.50 (£191.30)
New York: Comex \$339.25-339.75

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (May) ... \$19.00 bbl (\$18.90)

RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 138.7 March (1987=100)
* Denotes midday trading price

Contest for Channel 5 is clouded by doubts

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE Independent Television Commission yesterday put the licence to run Britain's fifth terrestrial television channel up for auction. At the same time, it admitted there was no guarantee that Channel 5 would ever be launched.

Closing date for applications in the blind-bid contest is July 7, but David Glen-cross, the commission's chief executive, said: "I cannot guarantee we will award it to anyone or that if we do it will be a commercial success."

Although several "significant players" in the media industry have expressed interest, the licence will not be awarded to any bidder unless it can prove to the commission that it possesses a viable plan for running an estimated 3 million video cassette recorders and satellite receivers that will be affected by interference from Channel 5's signal. The returning bill is estimated at £50 million to £200 million.

Yesterday, the commission said the winner would have to abide by a code of practice on returning VCRs. Returning must be completed 21 days after a request is made or the date of interference is reported, whichever is later.

"We would not feel justified awarding the licence to any bidder unless it provided a well thought-out plan for returning, backed by a detailed business plan showing how the costs will be met," Mr Glen-cross said. Returning was a "considerable task", unprecedented anywhere else in the world, he said.

Those who have so far indicated their interest in bidding include: Thames Television and TV-am, two of the losers in last autumn's ITV auction; Conrad Black, proprietor of The Daily Telegraph; Silvio Berlusconi, the Italian media mogul; Time Warner, the American media conglomerate; and the Five TV consortium led by Moses Znaimer, the Canadian owner of City TV, a Toronto station.

Negotiations between potential bidders are continuing, with bids from just two or three consortia expected on July 7.

The ITC plans to announce the winner at the beginning of November. Channel 5 must start broadcasting no later than January 1, 1995, covering not less than 30 per cent of the population within its first year of operation, the ITC said yesterday. The winner, which must shoulder the added cost of setting up a new national transmitter system, estimated at £30 million, must reach its full potential coverage of 74 per cent of the UK population no later than six years from its launch.

The licence will be awarded to the highest cash bidder after a quality test, but the winner will not have to pay a levy on its advertising, sponsorship or subscription revenue.

Originally, the ITC wanted Channel 5 to pay 5 per cent of its qualifying revenue to the Treasury. Recently, however, it decided to eliminate the charge altogether because of questions that had been raised over the very viability of the channel.

Mr Glen-cross said that the ITC did not begin its deliberations on Channel 5 by assuming the difficulties could not be overcome. "We expect there will be a number of extremely well thought-out applications," he said.

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Hands-on approach: George Russell, chairman-designate of the Independent Television Commission

Hanwell inherits 25 years of earnings growth at Farnell

By OUR CITY STAFF

RICHARD Hanwell, chief executive of Norton Opax until its acquisition by Bowater in 1989, is moving into the chair at Farnell Electronics, Europe's second-largest distributor of electronic components.

Farnell's unbroken record of earnings growth, stretching to 25 years after 1991 results, ensures that Mr Hanwell has a hard act to follow.

Although pre-tax profits eased back from £33.8 million to £32.7 million last year, on turnover 25 per cent higher at £204.9 million, earnings nudged ahead from 16.3p

share to 16.5p. Shareholders collect a 3.2p final dividend, giving them a total of 5.8p a share for the year, an increase of 5.5 per cent.

Raymond Kidd, the outgoing chairman, says the £61 million acquisition of STC's distribution business led to a seven-month contribution of £5 million to group operating profits, which emerged at £32.2 million, against £30 million, and enhanced earnings per share.

However, in funding the deal from cash resources and borrowings, the group ensured a fall in its net interest received from £3.8 million to

£500,000.

The distribution operations compensated for a recession-hit manufacturing side, whose profits tumbled from £7.03 million to £2.52 million.

Mr Hanwell, a non-executive director since January this year, takes over on August 4.

He is a qualified chartered accountant and recently led the White Rose Television consortium bid for the Yorkshire independent television franchise. He also holds directorships at a number of public limited companies.



At forefront of Farnell: Richard Hanwell, who becomes chairman in August

Laird calls for £41m in rights

By MICHAEL TATE

LAIRD Group, the motor industry supplier, is asking shareholders for £41.4 million to finance its successful expansion programme. New shares are offered at 220p each in the ratio of one for every five held. This compares with yesterday's stock market price of 272p.

Preliminary figures showed a downturn in pre-tax profits in 1991 from £38.9 million to £28.4 million, although £3 million of the shortfall was due to start-up costs at Laird's plants in Germany and Spain, and a further £2.2 million to redundancy costs in France and Britain.

Despite the setback, which reduced earnings by 28 per cent to 17.5p a share, the group achieved a cash flow surplus before acquisitions, and the board, led by John Gardiner, has lifted the dividend for the twentieth year in succession. The final payment is 6.2p, making 10.2p (10p).

Laird, which earns 85 per cent of its profits overseas, has invested £60 million over the past two years. Both the new German and Spanish plants are already profitable, and Mr Gardiner says the group has seen a significant recovery in the first quarter of 1992 compared with the period last year. The rights issue will permit gearing and interest cover to be maintained at prudent levels, he says.

Continental trading has been buoyed by the group's contracts to supply the new Golf and Astra models introduced last year.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Cronite board split over French offer

THE board of Cronite Group, the loss-making metals company, is divided over whether to accept an unsolicited £7.3 million takeover bid from AFE, a French engineering group. The 45p-a-share cash offer sent shares in Cronite soaring from 29p to 44p yesterday. The bid has been recommended by all but one of the board members and AFE has already received acceptances from holders of 14.8 per cent of Cronite's share capital.

David Piment, a former chairman and currently a non-executive director, said the offer does not fully value the company and disregards the potential benefits that will accrue to shareholders from recent closures and disposals. The bid price is at a 55 per cent premium to Monday's market price and offers shareholders an exit multiple of 10.5 times earnings of 4.3p for the year to end-September forecast by Kleinwort Benson Securities.

Debts knock Erith

A FALL in turnover and a big increase in bad debts have almost wiped out profits at Erith, the builders' merchant. Pre-tax profits for last year slumped from £2.2 million to £24,000 on turnover down from £77.7 million to £67.5 million. The final dividend is 0.7p (2.6p), making 2p (3.9p). Graham Davies, the chairman, said that reduced demand had been aggravated by price competition. The provision for bad and doubtful debts was £1.7 million — 2.6 per cent of turnover, compared with 0.4 per cent in a normal year.

EC's Daimler order

THE European Commission has ordered the German government to recover DM33.8 million from Daimler-Benz in what is described as state aid linked to Daimler's cur-price purchase of property in Berlin's Potsdamer Platz. Daimler bought a large site in Potsdamer Platz for DM92.9 million. The commission said an independent study had estimated the market value of the site at DM179.7 million and ruled the difference — DM86.8 million — to be state aid. It said DM33.8 million of that sum had to be recovered.

Shani edges ahead

SHANI Group, which designs and supplies women's and children's wear for the high street chains, increased its pre-tax profits from £764,000 to £770,000 in the six months to January 31 despite turnover falling from £5.9 million to £5.1 million. Earnings per share were 3.6p (3.5p) and the interim dividend stays at 1.6p. Martin Hollis, the chairman, said that with the controls that had been established and in anticipation of an upturn in trading, 1992-3 could be a much better year.

Boot bucks the trend

HENRY Boot & Sons, the builder and property developer, has continued to buck the trend in the construction industry with an increase in pre-tax profits from £6.36 million to £6.77 million for last year. Shareholders are rewarded with a final dividend of 19.5p, increasing the total by 2p to 27p. Earnings per share rose 21 per cent to 91.9p, helped by the decision to buy and cancel 190,000 shares during the year. Jamie Boot, the managing director, said that net cash reserves had risen to £14.6 million.

German pay talks fail

GERMANY'S public sector faces its first strike in 18 years by the end of this month after pay talks failed. Unable to bridge the gap between a 4.8 per cent offer and the union's demand for a 5.4 per cent rise, public sector unions called a strike ballot next week. Union officials are confident the 75 per cent majority needed for a strike will be reached. A strike could then start by the end of the month. "The offer of 4.8 per cent just dented the 'I' on our strike calls," said Monika Wulf-Mathies, president of OetTV, the public service union.

Beckenham into loss

SHARES in Beckenham Group, the heating engineer and tool distributor, almost halved to a low of 6p, from 10.5p, as the group admitted big losses and wrote-offs for the year to October and suspended final dividend payments on both ordinary and preference shares. The delayed results show the group made a pre-tax loss of £5.45 million (£5.61 million profit), and has written £4.8 million off against reserves after the April 1991 acquisition of an outstanding holding in a Docklands joint venture threw up losses.

FR Group edges up

FR Group, the aerospace and defence contractor, made pre-tax profits of £21.4 million (£21.3 million) on a turnover of £168.4 million (£169.2 million) in the year ended December. Michael Cobham, chairman, says the results should be seen as a commendable performance against a background of difficulties within the civil aircraft and defence markets. FR Group is paying a final dividend of 4.35p a share, making 6.69p (6.37p) for the year. The financial position remains strong, Mr Cobham says.

Sweet brands saved

TWO of the best-known brand names in the confectionery industry have been saved after the company that owned them went out of business. The Kellers and Barker & Dobson brands are among four that have been acquired for £3 million by Portfolio Foods from the receiver of Alma Holdings. The sale all but completes the break-up of Alma, which went into receivership in February. Cadbury Schweppes acquired the Hacks and Victory V cough sweet brands last week from the receiver.

Marketing experts identify Russia's Essex man

By WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU
EUROPEAN BUSINESS
CORRESPONDENT

THE day the Sverdlovsk supermarket in the Urals stacked its shelves with canned beer from China, the shopping queues were longer than ever. Despite the extremely high price being asked, someone had heard that the beer was a concentrate, to which the consumer should add two litres of water.

Russian marketing techniques are nowhere near as dull and outmoded as many unassuming westerners may have thought.

From a purely marketing viewpoint the Chinese beer play was a success. But it might not be so easy to repeat, at least not in the same place. Identifying the buying impulses of the Russian consumer — who could be forgiven for a state of confusion should he find himself with money in

his pocket at the same time as there are goods in the shops — is a task that DMB&B, the advertising agency, has set itself.

DMB&B observed that the Chinese beer affair showed that Russia "clearly has its own marketing techniques". From this useful starting point, the report dissects the underlying tenets of the Russian soul, which, and this is perhaps the most astonishing claim, has hardly changed since the days of Dostoevski.

Russians apparently can be grouped into five types. The two largest, and most intriguing, are the Kupitsi and "Russian souls".

Kupitsi have no precise equivalent in Britain. They are a mixture of Victorian merchant and Essex man, self-centred, marginally successful, and extremely nationalist. They would buy mainly Russian products, if available, and if not, they go for north European reliability, Scandinavian goods, German cars and the like. They would not buy Japanese. The Russian souls, which DMB&B claims comprise 25 per cent of all Russian males and 30 per cent of females, are essentially people who expected the worst and get what they expect.

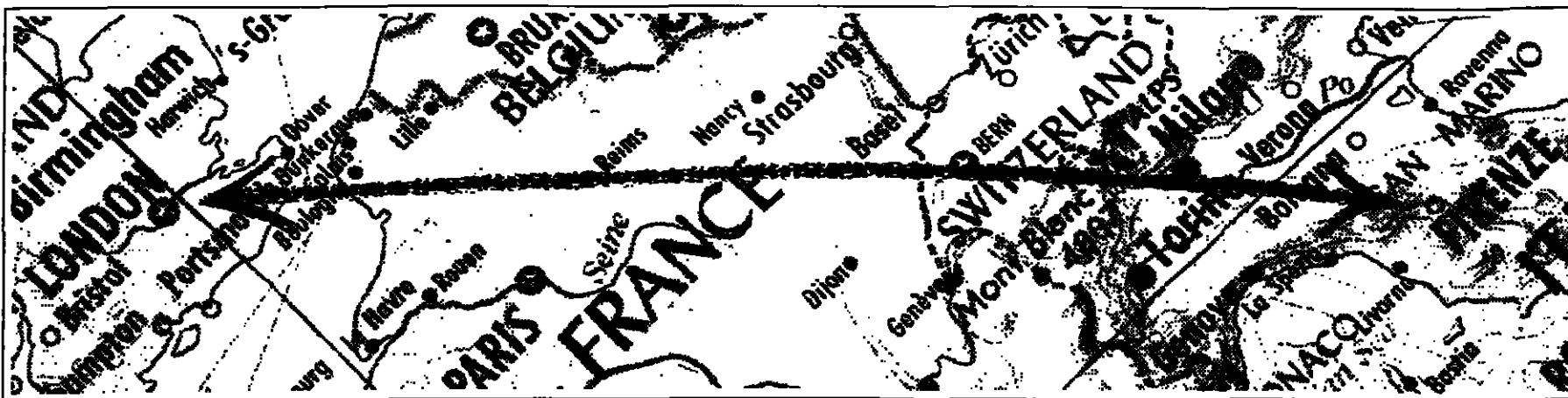
They are a group prone to buying expensive Chinese beer in cans, but would go on buying it. Whatever they bought, they would feel deceived. "If he buys a Russian car, the quality is low. He feels deceived. If he buys an imported car, he can't get the spare parts. He feels deceived." If the foreign manufacturer provides a service schedule, "the service is expensive. He feels deceived."

Another intriguing group are the "Cossacks", whose "sole existence is shot through with paradox". They are the kind of people who would queue up in front of the McDonald's restaurant in Pushkin Square, yet consistently complain

that the "girls who served had stopped smiling after about only a month": that the clocks inside the store had stopped, and that the Big Macs were no good. Yet the Cossacks would come back.

The remaining two groups are affluent businessmen, western-oriented and probably the ideal target for western marketers, and so-called "students", who have nothing to do with real students other than being "high on ideals and low on work".

The report gives the useful warning that "markets and consumers do not as yet exist in any real sense in Russia" — a minor inconvenience — but the potential for clever marketing is intriguing once the basic economic parameters are in place. "Westerners have, by and large, achieved the affluence necessary to graduate to higher forms of neurotic behaviour. Russians are not so fortunate or enlightened yet."



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BUSINESS ROUNDUP

te board split
French offer

s knock Erith

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tenham into loss

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et brands saved

ACCOUNTANCY
AND FINANCE

Pay settlements in manufacturing averaging 4.3%

By Ross TIEHAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

PAY settlements in manufacturing averaged 4.3 per cent during the first quarter, only 0.3 per cent above the March inflation rate, according to the pay databank compiled by the Confederation of British Industry.

Although the provisional figure is 0.1 per cent up on the figure for the fourth quarter of last year, it provides strong evidence that downward pressure on pay rises has been maintained.

The figures almost certainly

overstate the true level of increases, because they take no account of deferred settlements, which have now become commonplace.

According to the employers' organisation, one manufacturing company in six which was due to negotiate a pay rise during the first quarter has instead imposed a pay freeze.

Productivity growth in the three months to the end of March was 3.8 per cent. That was a fall from the 5 per cent

growth achieved during the final quarter of 1991, but productivity growth remains ahead of levels achieved a year ago.

The rise in unit labour costs, a key indicator of the ability of British manufacturing companies to compete with overseas rivals, was 4.7 per cent, year on year. However, this was no higher than the rise experienced by competitors in Japan and Germany, which were also affected by recession, the confederation said.

Sir John Banham, the CBI's director general, said settlements had been reduced to levels compatible with productivity improvements.

"This reduces the threat of inflation, helps competitiveness, and will ultimately prove good for jobs," he said.

So long as pay deals remained modest, companies would be well placed to grow when their order books recovered, Sir John added.

The fall in pay settlements has been relatively rapid. Only a year ago, the CBI databank was recording average increases of 8 per cent. Deals are now running at the lowest level since the CBI began collecting figures in 1980.

The figures are likely to be a comfort to Norman Lamont, the Chancellor. Pay is normally regarded as a lagging indicator in the battle against inflation.

A survey of 349 companies by Manpower, the employment services group, suggests that twice as many firms are now preparing to recruit staff than are planning job cuts.

The telephone poll found that 22 per cent of the companies polled were planning to take on more people, an increase of 6 per cent over the level recorded before the election. The proportion planning job cutbacks had fallen from 17 per cent to 11 per cent.

However, the prospects of job creation were concentrated in services. The proportion of manufacturing companies planning to add to their workforces was almost identical to the proportion planning further job cuts.

Hammerson's assets decline

By OUR CITY STAFF

THE value of the British and international property portfolio of Hammerson, Britain's third-biggest property company, fell an average 15.9 per cent last year to just under £2 billion.

The fall in asset value was the main reason for the sharp rise in Hammerson's gearing ratio. Although net borrowings only rose £80 million to £524 million, gearing jumped from 54 per cent to 78 per cent. With higher borrowings magnifying the impact of lower property values, Hammerson's net assets per share fell 23 per cent, from 832p to 637p.

The worldwide fall in property values was led by a 20 per cent decline in Hammerson's American portfolio and a 17 per cent fall in the group's British properties. However, in Germany, Spain and France, values fell only 3 per cent, while Canada saw a 14 per cent slip and Australia 10 per cent.

Sydney Mason, the chairman, said the majority of the world's property markets were experiencing the most depressed conditions in living memory. Almost 60 per cent of the group's assets are overseas. John Parry, the managing director, was relaxed about the rise in Hammerson's gearing, although he would not want to

see it any higher. He said the group's net rental income of £114 million covered the £78.8 million gross interest charge by almost 1.5 times.

Of that total interest bill, about £32.1 million has been capitalised and added to the book's cost of developments held in the balance sheet. The amount of interest capitalised is £2.3 million higher than it was in 1990, despite the fall in property values. Expenditure was £110 million but will fall sharply this year, as the company has current committed expenditure of only £31.4 million.

Pre-tax profits were £15.2 million lower at £55.5 million, as opportunities for profitable trading evaporated. Below the line, an extraordinary item of £96.6 million reduced the company to an attributable loss of £59.2 million, against last year's £40.1 million profit. Despite that, Hammerson is maintaining its final dividend at 17p, making an unchanged total of 20.5p.

The extraordinary item was expected, having very largely been included in the group's interim results. Most of it relates to a £90 million writedown in the value of a newly developed office block on Fifth Avenue, New York. Hammerson plans to sell the building floor by floor.

Bankrupt Bond loses last hope

AJAN Bond, once one of Australia's richest men, yesterday lost his seven-month court battle against bankruptcy. The Federal Court in Sydney rejected further legal moves to delay the appointment of a trustee over Mr Bond's financial affairs.

Mr Bond has to give his passport to the trustee, Mr Robert Ramsay of Bird Cameron, an accountancy firm, who will control his assets and his lifestyle. Mr Bond did not appear at the hearing in Sydney as he was giving evidence to a royal commission in Perth.

Hanson sale

Hanson has sold the Australian construction and property interests of Beazer. The buyer, B&B Asia, a Hong Kong company controlled by Billfinger and Berger, a German construction company, is paying A\$32.5 million (£14 million). Hanson will receive a further A\$8 million when certain properties are resold. Hanson paid £1.5 billion for Beazer, including debt.

West losses

West Industries has published its results for the year to end-March 1991, showing pre-tax losses deepening from £1.08 million to £6.3 million. There is again no dividend.

Metsec drops

Metsec reports a pre-tax loss of £257,000 for last year (£4.2 million profit). The final dividend is 3.7p, making an unchanged 6.4p.

Herring rises

Herring Baker Harris, a chartered surveyor, managed to earn pre-tax profits of £3.51 million (£3.48 million) in the year to January 31. The final dividend is 3.75p (3.5p), making 7p (6.5p).

UniChem buy

UniChem has acquired another eight pharmacies for £3.4 million in cash, plus stock at valuation.

Devenish deal

JA Devenish is to lease 115 pubs from Whitbread, free of tie, for eight years.

Value of shares in Birse falls a third

By JONATHAN PRYNN

SHARES in Birse Group, the construction and property group, lost more than a third of their value yesterday on news that one of the group's biggest contracts had fallen through.

The failed contract was for the construction of a hotel and leisure complex at £20 million two-course golf development at Tolleshunt D'Arcey, Essex. The developer, Quietwaters, a consortium backed by leading banks, has been placed in administrative receivership. As a result, Birse is to make an £8.5 million exceptional provision in its accounts for the year to end-April and is likely to report a loss. The company will pass its final dividend.

Birse had been in dispute with Quietwaters but had hoped to rescue the scheme

through the investment of an unnamed third party that has pulled out.

Peter Birse, chairman of the Humberside company, described the outcome as "a pretty rotten business", but added that Birse had "no other clients likely to go pop."

The failure of the Quietwaters project completes a miserable year for Mr Birse. Pre-tax profits fell 62 per cent to £1.8 million at the half-way stage, ruining an otherwise unblemished record of profits growth throughout the course of the recession in the construction industry.

At March 31, orders for 1992-3 were only 3 per cent down on the comparative level of a year previously. The shares closed at 43p, down 24p.



Head office men: Colin Black, Scottish Widows' chairman, and (right) Mike Ross, managing director

Scottish Widows policies hit record

By LINDSAY COOK, MONEY EDITOR

NEW business for Scottish Widows exceeded £1.5 billion for the first time last year. Single-premium business increased by 70 per cent to £1,403 million and annual premiums rose by 35 per cent to £194 million. Mike Ross,

managing director, said the company's main source of business was pensions.

Despite the victory of the Conservatives in the election, Scottish Widows was still concerned that the opposition parties proposed a radically different approach to pensions. "We strongly believe," Mr Ross said, "that it would

be in everyone's best interests — distributors, providers and policyholders alike — to move to arrangements enabling long-term planning to be built into the process."

Scottish Widows reduced bonus rates in 1991 in the hope that that would help to introduce a greater degree of realism into the market.

This year, several life offices have followed suit.

Mr Ross said that Scottish Widows supported the proposed changes on disclosure of expenses to investors. However, the company felt disquiet that these would not apply to alternative savings methods offered by banks and building societies.

Alexandra slides into loss

By OUR CITY STAFF

ALEXANDRA Workwear, which supplies a range of work clothes, from boiler suits to doctors' coats, made a pre-tax loss of £500,000 in the year to February 1. The company suffered from the failure of the expected economic recovery to materialise after a period of heavy capital expenditure.

The loss was sustained after a heavy interest bill of £2.6 million and a £1.5 million rationalisation of its Scottish manufacturing plant. Last time, Alexandra made a pre-tax profit of £5.3 million.

The company completed a £15 million, three-year programme of investment in a computerised distribution system. It took borrowings to £16 million and gearing to 73 per cent at the year-end.

Julian Budd, finance director, said it was "inconceivable" that gearing would not fall below 50 per cent this year, because of the benefits of the investment programme and improved cash flow.

John Prior, chairman and chief executive, said the company, which has a 30 per cent share of the UK workwear market, had seen an increased level of enquiries over the past three months. However, trading in the first eight weeks of the current financial year is running at about the same level as the same period in 1991.

The investment programme meant production could be increased at little additional cost. Mr Prior said. He steps down as chairman in favour of Gerald Dennis later this month. He will remain chief executive.

A reduced final dividend of 1.8p (3.2p) makes a total of 3.6p (5p) for the year.

Olympia & York begins individual bank meetings

By MATTHEW BOND

EXECUTIVES at Olympia & York, the debt-laden Canadian property developer, yesterday began a series of one-to-one meetings with key individual banks and banking syndicates.

The meetings follow Monday's presentation to 91 banks at which O&Y said it proposed to restructure only part of its \$19 billion of debt. Such a divide and rule policy is common in north American financial restructurings but virtually unknown in Britain, where "London rules" normally require the pain to be shared by all banks.

The situation is more complicated in the case of O&Y, because of the group's unorthodox approach to financing that was pioneered by Paul Reichmann, one of the three brothers who own the private company. Most of O&Y's \$14 billion (£6.7 billion) property debt is secured on individual buildings. Even in the depressed property markets, this solid asset backing offers an individual bank, or banking syndicate, considerable security that will not be given up lightly.

This variety of lending relied on O&Y's hitherto unimpeachable reputation for building successful developments. Bankers were happy to lend to individual O&Y projects without recourse to the parent company.

But O&Y also used its reputation to get bankers to lend to the parent company, particularly as the demands of funding the Canary Wharf project grew. Although much of this lending to the parent company is secured, the security in some cases ranks below that held by more conventionally secured lenders. For these banks, whose ul-

mate guarantee was O&Y itself, the prospect of O&Y failing would leave them holding little more than worthless agreements.

Between US\$4 billion and \$5 billion is believed to have been lent in this way and it is these debts that Steve Miller, the investment banker leading O&Y's refinancing, has made his top priority. About 50 banks are believed to be involved in this proportion of the debt, including a ten-bank syndicate that advanced a \$2.5 billion consolidating loan in 1989 and a different ten-bank syndicate that advanced £500 million in 1990 towards Canary Wharf.

The second banking syndicate, which also agreed to lend £52 million of further emergency funding last month, does have some security, in the form of a charge over some of the buildings at Canary Wharf. Contrast that with the position of four Canadian banks that are reported as lending £450 million to the Canary Wharf project, but took as security shares in the O&Y subsidiaries developing the project.

As well as rescheduling both the principal and interest elements of these loans, O&Y's refinancing package also spells out the need for additional resources. With O&Y's operations in the United States requiring no new money and Canada needing £3100 million, the bulk of the fresh finance is needed to complete work at Canary Wharf. Some £100 million is needed almost immediately, with £250 million required over the next two years.



Financing pioneer: Paul Reichmann of O&Y

Abu Dhabi is part owner of bombed City tower



Towering costs: the CU building at the centre of Friday's bomb blast

THE government of Abu Dhabi, a shareholder in the collapsed Bank of Credit and Commerce International with Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan al-Nahyan, the ruler of Abu Dhabi, is part owner of the Commercial Union Tower, which was at the centre of the bomb explosion in the City on Friday.

The Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA), of which Sheikh Zayed is chairman and Mohammed Habrout, the finance minister, is managing director, owns part of the Commercial Union Tower through Goodwill Nominees. Commercial Union and Postel are the two other joint owners of the building. Ten of the 26 floors house Commercial Union, while groups with offices on other floors include Winterthur Insurance Company (UK), of Switzerland, Morgan Stanley, Sanwa Bank and Daiwa Bank.

They have all lost business since the bomb explosion, but owners of large office blocks and property developments are also likely to be hard hit until multi-million pound claims for building damage

Karen Woolfson looks at the property groups

worst affected by the

City bombing

and loss of rent are paid out. ADIA has received a double blow because their London offices are on the 18th floor of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank building, which suffered damage from the explosion. The site is owned, according to one property agency, by a Japanese trust.

The badly damaged building that is near the Commercial Union Tower and houses the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, is owned by the Union Bank of Switzerland and is worth an estimated £70 million. The James Capel building affected by the bomb is owned by Scottish Amicable. Construction groups, among the hardest hit by the recession, are also assessing

the costs. Speyhawk has sent a team to look at its multi-million pound Exchange Court development in St Mary Axe, which was due to be completed this year.

Great Portland Estates owns three buildings in the area, one in St Mary Axe and two in Bishopsgate, while Trafalgar House jointly owns a nearby development with a subsidiary of Hanson.

The Baltic Exchange, which owns its own building, and Commercial Union are expected to be among the worst hit, but pension funds are also waking up to the costs. The University Superannuation Scheme owns two buildings in St Mary Axe: 61,700 members and more than 30,000 pensioners may be affected.

Many insurers and reinsurers will face claims as a result of the bomb blast. Commercial Union is the lead insurer for the Commercial Union Tower, while Royal Insurance is lead insurer of the Baltic Exchange and the Chamber of Shipping. However, the claims on all of the buildings tend to be covered by syndicates, which will limit costs.

Shrinking strategy for banks in Japan

By OUR CITY STAFF

JAPANESE banks might continue to trim both overseas assets and trading volumes in money and foreign exchange markets to try to reach international capital adequacy targets, a leading banker said.

Kenichi Suematsu, chairman of the Federation of Bankers' Associations, said banks would give top priority to local clients, although assets had to be cut to meet capital adequacy ratios. They would find it difficult to achieve the internationally mandated 8 per cent ratio unless the 225-share Nikkei average rose to around 20,000.

Mr Suematsu, also chairman of Sakura Bank, said it would be hard to maintain at least 8.5 per cent of capital unless the Nikkei index rose to around 23,000 and stayed there.

The Bank for International Settlements (BIS) has said that international banks should set aside capital equal to 8 per cent of risk-weighted assets by March next year. Worries have grown that Japanese banks might restrict lending because of plunges in Japanese share prices, which are counted as part of capital.

The 225-share Nikkei average fell below 20,000 last month and closed at 17,439.58 on Tuesday.

In the year to September, 1991, the big banks trimmed overseas assets and trading volumes in short-term money and foreign exchange markets by 4 to 5 per cent. Their overall assets grew by about 1 per cent.

Noting fears that restricted bank lending in the wake of share price plunges might create a credit crunch at home, Mr Suematsu said there had been no credit problem, partly because corporate demand for cash was sluggish.

Domestic loans extended by Japan's 11 biggest banks grew by only 2.5 per cent in the year to March 31, the lowest figure since 1954, when it started surveying banks, the federation said. It attributed slow growth to stagnant corporate capital spending and weak demand from individuals for housing and consumer loans.

While expressing concern about the negative impact of international capital ratios on countries adopting the rules, Mr Suematsu said Japanese banks would not press the authorities to call for a revision of international capital standards.

Nikkei rises, page 20

ScotMet losses continue

SCOTTISH Metropolitan Property, the Glasgow property group, remains loss-making with a pre-tax loss for the six months to February 15 of £840,000, compared with a profit of £2.7 million in the first half of the preceding year.

The latest deficit comes six months after October's full-year loss of £8.4 million and three months after the departure of Gordon Milne as managing director.

Mr Milne was replaced by Scott Cairns, who said he planned to return ScotMet to its original property investment activities by cutting back on development. The results show that Mr Milne and Paul Birch, the development director who also left in January, shared £201,000 in compensation.

ScotMet continues to be seriously affected by its high level of borrowings, which at the year end were more than £200 million, giving gearing of 140 per cent. By the half year end the net proceeds of some £39 million of property sales had reduced borrowings to £190 million.

The profit and loss account shows ScotMet's interim interest charge rising from £6.6 million to £10.3 million, but this actually disguises a modest improvement in the group's total interest bill.

With its development programme almost complete, the amount of interest capitalised into the balance sheet has fallen from £5.5 million to just £860,000. If the capitalised interest is added back, the group's total interest bill has fallen from £12.1 million to £11.2 million.

After the loss, the interim dividend has been cut from 2.53p to 1.5p, although the company intends to maintain the total payout at 4.4p.

M's strong profits
e Dow early boost

Lloyds should look elsewhere

Many of the key figures were absent when the chief executives of Hongkong Bank and the Midland finally presented their agreed takeover plan in London yesterday. Midland had mentally signed away its independence long ago. William Purves, chairman of HSBC, was back in Hong Kong, doubtless convincing local shareholders that raising the tax bill in order to move the holding company to London was to their advantage. Sir Jeremy Morse, chairman of Lloyds Bank, the jilted suitor, maintained the strained public silence he has kept since HSBC announced its bid intentions four weeks ago. Robin Leigh-Pemberton, Governor of the Bank of England, was quietly hoping nothing bloody would ensue.

If Sir Jeremy and Brian Pitman, his tough chief executive, saw their opportunity in a relatively low bid from HSBC, they will have been encouraged. The offer, mainly in shares, values Midland at less than 30 per cent more than its depleted net assets, which are modest relative to its irreplaceable retail banking franchise and prominent positions in other markets. By contrast Lloyds shares trade at almost double net assets, albeit the premium also reflects its big life assurance interests.

This is no time for an international bank to weaken its balance sheet in the cause of expansion. Mr Purves needed to bolster even this bid by revealing unexpectedly munificent hidden reserves of about £1 billion. If he tried to increase the bid by much, it would soon be bogged down in a soggy HSBC share price. The calculations are quite different for Lloyds, which would pay for its rival by swinging the axe at duplicated overheads, removing large swathes of the overlapping branch network along with its employees. In effect, Lloyds would buy a balance sheet and close a bank. No wonder Midland thought its earlier approach unrealistic.

Any Lloyds bid would have to go through the Monopolies Commission and might well not emerge in recognisable form. The competition authorities, along with retailers and small business groups, are far from happy about the existing level of competition among big banks, let alone further concentration on the scale envisaged by Lloyds. The contrast with HSBC's potential invigoration of Midland as a competitor is striking. The risk of a Lloyds bid being vetoed is therefore so great that Midland shareholders must prefer what HSBC has on offer unless Lloyds bid an awful lot more.

Across Princes Street from the Midland's headquarters, the Bank of England shares the likely preference of the competition authorities, if for different reasons. In 1981, a stuffer Governor strongly opposed the Hongkong Bank's attempt to take over the Royal Bank of Scotland. The Bank claimed this might endanger its authority because control would go overseas and it could not rely on the Hongkong Bank to do its bidding. HSBC had crossed the Governor by making a hostile bid when he had blessed a mooted merger between Royal and Standard Chartered. Times and personalities have changed, but nothing could better have pleased the Bank than HSBC's plan to move its global base to London next year, making the Bank lead regulator for HSBC as well as locally for Midland.

Lloyds is now in danger of disturbing banking dignity with a hostile bid. The Bank is more relaxed about such things, but still anxious to show a clear preference for agreed deals when the single European market could inaugurate a free-for-all. Lloyds would, at the least, be reminded of the bitter battle that ensued when it made a hostile bid for Standard Chartered in 1986. Fortunately for Lloyds shareholders, that failed. Maybe Sir Jeremy should take another look.

One man broadcasts vision into Europe out of Africa

South African reforms have enabled M-Net, that nation's top glamour stock, to spread its news, says Jon Ashworth

Ton Vosloo is a man with a vision. He wants to bring news and entertainment to the remotest corners of sub-Saharan Africa and turn M-Net, the South African pay television channel he runs, into one of the world's most profitable media enterprises. His success would pay tribute to the energies released by the transformation of South African business from pariah to acceptable partner.

Today, M-Net takes a key step towards Mr Vosloo's vision by starting joint broadcasts to Africa with the BBC. The BBC has been keen to add Africa to its World Service television network, which currently reaches Asia and the Middle East. M-Net's core of films and entertainment programmes will be supplemented by BBC news bulletins.

While he brings BBC television to Africa, however, Mr Vosloo is moving into Europe. M-Net is part of a consortium bidding for FilmNet, a Swedish entertainment channel that reaches 585,000 subscribers in six countries, though principally Sweden and The Netherlands. M-Net has teamed up with Richmont, the tobacco to luxury goods group and overseas arm of South Africa's Rupert family. M-Net raised 250 million rand (£50 million) last year in a rights issue to fund its side of the deal and is talking to several prospective European venture partners, including Canal Plus, the French pay television channel. The deal will make 18 million European households potential customers of M-Net, which is the third-biggest television station of its kind outside America, after Canal Plus and BSkyB.

Mr Vosloo, chairman of M-Net, can barely contain his delight. "We have now gone further into Europe and made a big jump into Africa. The Europeans can't believe that something like this has come out of Africa. They think 'How can these people be so technologically advanced?' We've got teams operating in Europe giving technological advice to the Italians, the Turks, the Cypriotes, we're all over, we're in Brazil. We saw the gap."

Since M-Net's flotation on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange 18 months ago, the group has become South Africa's glamour stock. Shareholders saw a return of 373 per cent in a year. In South Africa, M-Net subscribers use a decoder to unscramble a signal transmitted over the usual television network, rather than BSkyB-style individual satellite dishes.

Programmes to the rest of Africa are beamed via a satellite straddling the equator and relayed to a single dish on a hotel, office block or a village of mud huts, if need be. A small local transmitter relays the signal to nearby television sets. Mr



Breaking the news: Ton Vosloo, head of M-Net, which plans a global television network

Vosloo's dream is to be able to feed M-Net to the remotest villages in Africa. He said: "With a satellite up, you can have a smaller dish in a local community and with a couple of hundred rand you can relay it. It's very cheap that way because you don't need cables."

Since many rural communities lack electricity or simply cannot afford the service — South Africans pay up to £14 a month for it — it makes sense to target large cities and resorts first. M-Net began broadcasting to Namibia in December, launches its Kenyan service in June and has signed up about 7,000 hotels in Africa. Nairobi alone has a potential market of 25,000 subscribers.

It may not end there. Mr Vosloo said: "Our satellite signal, the footprint, is now going right around the east coast of Africa cutting through the Arabian world, and you can actually pick up M-Net in any Arabic state in the Middle East. So if we want to expand at some time, we can easily do what we're doing in Kenya there."

M-Net broadcasts films, shows and sports coverage 24 hours a day. A standard package will be beamed by satellite to African countries with news supplied locally. One of the ironies of M-Net is that its dominant

shareholders are six South African newspaper groups. Television was introduced in South Africa only in 1976 and television advertising was banned for the first two years because of fears about its impact on newspaper revenues. When advertising was permitted, the consequences were devastating. Mr Vosloo, a former newspaperman, said: "We lost over 30 per cent of our revenues in the first couple of years after the introduction of advertising on TV. This monster was gobbling up our revenues and no-one seemed to care about it."

In 1985, he was telephoned from New York by Koos Bekker, an Afrikaans law graduate who was studying electronic communication at Columbia University. Mr Bekker saw scope for a new television service in South Africa. He proposed a pay television channel which derived 70 per cent of income from equipment — the sale and leasing of decoders — rather than advertising.

Mr Vosloo had good political connections thanks to a career as a political journalist and agreed to lobby for the new service. A licence was granted on the basis that all the owners of daily newspapers were given a say. M-Net went on the air

in 1986, with Mr Vosloo as chairman and Mr Bekker as chief executive. Six years later, 40 per cent (675,000 homes) of those who own television sets in South Africa subscribe to it, while the newspaper backers have made a paper fortune out of their investments.

The prospect of a South African company screening films in Europe was unimaginable before President FW de Klerk launched his reforms two years ago. Mr Vosloo said: "We were on the look out for opportunities internationally apart from Africa and I think de Klerk made it possible. When this thing cropped up in Europe, the timing was spot on. We couldn't have moved a year previously, we couldn't have put out one finger in Europe. We would have been shot down in flames because of the South African connection."

Even expansion in Europe and Africa may not be enough to satisfy M-Net's ambitions. The company was due to bid for a station in New Zealand but lost to Time Warner. It has cast its eye over the Australian market, which is opening to competition. Mr Vosloo said: "The satellite now makes it possible for us to become an international player. The Europeans and the Americans know it and they're all jumping."

National Savings back in fashion

Incoming ministers at the Treasury may view with mixed feelings one of the public sector's more notable success stories of last year. The net intake of money into National Savings more than doubled from £1.35 billion in 1990-1 to £3.13 billion in 1991-2.

Last month alone, £511 million flowed in, the biggest monthly rise in the £40 billion savings pool since August 1984.

If only people had spent all that money in the high street, ministers might muse, the economy would surely have picked up that crucial bit earlier. There could, however, be no such easy equation. In practice, the money would only have been put into some other savings medium had it not been attracted to the state, and a direct government appeal to the public for funds should come in handy this year and next.

A few years ago, National Savings was seen in government circles as something of an embarrassment. Higher savings might have stopped the boom getting out of hand. The government, however, did not need the money when the borrowing requirement was shrinking and the public sector was even repaying part of the national debt.

Premium bonds and savings certificates also carried something of an ideological stigma. The government, with its bottomless pockets, was thought to be competing unfairly with the private savings market.

This advantage is most obvious in issues of index-linked savings certificates, which accounted for more than £1 billion of the net inflow last year and could prove a better bargain for the government than the investor if the public were wrong and the government right about the downturn in inflation.

The sudden deterioration in public finances has already removed any lingering ideological qualms. Interest rates on National Savings, which were not too competitive a while ago, have already been made relatively more attractive by the simple expedient of not cutting returns in line with falling market interest rates.

In the Budget, Norman Lamont announced a new short-term fixed interest bond, aimed at the ordinary taxpayer, which has yet to be named but which the government hopes might bring in up to £3 billion after it is launched in the summer.

The Chancellor expects to borrow £28 billion in 1992-3 and even more in 1993-4. Some money could be attracted from abroad but most of the funding will need to come from British financial institutions, absorbing a large proportion of their extra cash. The corporate private sector is, therefore, in danger of being crowded out of the capital market as insurance companies and pension funds divert their cash inflow into the rising tide of gilt-edged issues. The more the public can be persuaded to chip in directly via National Savings the better.

GRAHAM SEARJEANT
Financial Editor

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Shipman to the rescue

FRANK Shipman, aged 46, owner of City Gym, which was situated in the basement of the Baltic Exchange, and was devastated in Friday's bomb blast, is setting up a support group for small non-institutional businesses such as his own, and local shops and sandwich bars, which have been forced to cease operations overnight. Shipman spent most of Sunday escorting police round the ruins of his gym in the Exchange building and was back on the scene yesterday to collect various papers. "The thing you feel most is that you just don't know what to do next," he says. "Unlike the big institutions, who know what to do about insurance claims, relocation and so on, people like us feel completely stranded and don't know which way to turn." Small businesses who would like to join the group can contact Shipman on 081-570 8548. He would also be glad to hear from any stranded members of his gym, too.



political colours would, he says, be wrong to jump to conclusions. Although the IEA includes right-wing economists Tim Congdon and Patrick Minford among its members, Spencer says it would be incorrect to infer anything from this, or from his monetarist credentials. "I am a monetarist economist rather than a monetarist," he says. "Just because I was on a right-wing think tank doesn't mean I was politically right wing." Unlike monetarists, it seems, monetary economists can be of either political persuasion.

Driving in neutral

AS BEFFITS a former Treasury civil servant, Peter Spencer, aged 42, the new chief economist at Kleinwort Benson, is coy about revealing his political affiliations. Spencer, who had been chief UK economist at Lehman Brothers for the last three years, has had plenty of practice in remaining politically neutral — he served both the Callaghan and Thatcher governments. Those who think his membership of the Institute of Economic Affairs, a right-wing think tank, is indicative of his

Worth his salt

WILLIAM Cortazzi, the 30-year-old leading the £48.5 million buyout of ICI's salt businesses, admits that he trawled around several venture capitalists before eventually finding backing from Foreign & Colonial Ventures. He swears, however, that F&C's support had nothing to do with his having friends in high places. His father, Sir Hugh Cortazzi, once "our man" in Japan, is, in fact, a non-executive director of Foreign & Colonial Pacific Trust. William, who was born in

Japan, insists that his father knew about the deal only after it was done and says that he finds the whole idea of his father being involved in venture capital amusing. "He's basically an academic and a foreign office man," he says. "He's now advising Foreign & Colonial on the Far East but I don't think the management buyout business is quite him." Despite his father's restraining influence — "he is always urging me to be more conservative" — Cortazzi junior is enjoying life as risk-taking entrepreneur. Even ten years at ICI after starting as a graduate trainee have not held him back. "It's meant to be a job for life and if you're not there for life, you've failed. That's not how I see it," he says. Clearly a man to watch....

No contest

BOB Tyrrell, head of the Henley Centre for Forecasting, Britain's premier establishment for predicting and analysing social trends, is known as a man who does not suffer fools gladly. When interviewed in January for a Times Business Profile, the millionaire — from his 20 per cent stake in the centre after its 1986 management buyout and subsequent purchase by WPP — described himself as a man who gets to the future before the rest of us. "It's not that difficult to predict the future," he said. "If you spend all your time doing it, you become an expert." When then asked who would win the election and when, he replied with supreme confidence. "In April and it will be won by the Conservative party."

CAROL LEONARD

Questions to ask on top salaries

G. A. Higham

Sir, There has been concern expressed in your columns about large salaries.

I write as chairman of a substantial industrial company, though in a personal capacity. I am concerned that the apparent actions of the few should be taken as the practice of the many. Most salaries at the top of industrial businesses are nothing like some of the examples mentioned recently.

There are two questions. Are the recent increases cited (for example British Gas) but there have been others justified? Second, is the size of the salary right?

On the first point, it seems impossible to defend salary increases much greater than increases in profits. The salary committees concerned should be more conscious of this.

The second question is more difficult. What should the salary for the head of a very large company be? It should presumably be based on what is needed to attract a successful incumbent and also what the company can afford.

On the first point, it is suggested that international comparisons are important. This seems overdue and

such comparisons are only meaningful if all other factors are taken into account, for example, wage levels and the cost of living in the countries concerned, together with their culture.

More to the point for industry is competing with the levels of salary in the professions which industry uses — particularly accounting, the law and the City. These are not so widely published but there seems evidence to suggest that top salaries are very high (a recent survey of legal salaries mentioned figures of £500,000). Whilst one is impressed by the quality of the professionals, one has to say that it seems fully reflected in their charges.

The best defence of the level of industrial salaries, including the highest, must lie in the need to attract a full share of the available talent, and for the new entrant to see that as he, or she, climbs the ladder, substantial rewards are possible.

But, as always, moderation and openness are needed in what is bound to be a controversial area.

Yours faithfully,
G. A. HIGHAM,
32 East St Helen Street,
Abingdon,
Oxfordshire.

Letter to The Times helped small firm

From Mrs Barbara Woodcock

Sir, My letter published on April 8 regarding bank charges for small businesses seems to have caused quite a stir. Readers may like to know that on publication day we were visited by the Chief Manager, Corporate Banking Group, National West-

minster Bank, Bedford and the Regional Small Business Adviser. A very helpful and informative discussion ensued and we have resolved the problem in a most satisfactory manner. Thank you

Yours faithfully,
BARBARA WOODCOCK,
24 Portland Close,
Bedford.

Easy audit pickings

From Mr Alan Ducker

Sir, Stella Fearnley drew attention (Accountancy Times, April 9) to the part played by the failures of the accountancy profession in its audit role in recent big company scandals.

She also said that the Act makes no distinction between the rules for the very small company and the multinational, and that in the past the abolition of audits for very small companies was opposed by the Inland Revenue, the banks and the trade department.

But she could have gone on to say that the profession itself has the biggest vested interest of all in retaining audits for very small companies.

Where else in the world is there such a vast guaranteed income from fees for doing tiny audits?

The audit is especially absurd where a company has had to be set up for the sole purpose of splitting a large house into (say) six flats, so that the leaseholders can also be their own freeholders.

With no turnover whatsoever (other than possibly an insurance policy premium), any accountant would expect to demand a fee of at least £100 for the audit of that one invoice.

No wonder so many people make the effort to obtain accountancy qualifications each year, rather than, say, engineering ones.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN DUCKER,
3 Allenby,
Lansdown Road,
Bath.

Letters intended for publication in The Times Business and Finance section can also be sent by fax. The number is 071-782 5112.

DTI confirms an ancient universal law

From Mr Hugh ApSimon

Sir, Mrs Catherine Stott's description (Business Letters, April 9) of the DTI's delays merely confirms an ancient and universal law. I first heard it explicitly stated by Professor Hartree, 40 years ago. I cannot give his exact words; but, fairly closely:

"Ask the man in charge of a project how long it will be before he completes it. He will give you a time — 'nine months', for example. Some months later, ask him the same question. He will give you the same answer ('nine months' in my example). The answer is independent of the timing of the question. It is a constant, depending only on the project. I call this constant 'Hartree's constant of the project'. It occurs in every branch of science (and may well occur elsewhere)."

"The extreme rarity of exceptions goes to reinforce the general validity of the rule."

Mrs Stott's example suggests that Professor Hartree was president with his "may well occur elsewhere".

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
HUGH AP-SIMON,
Badgers' Set,
Old Bisleys Road,
Frimley,
Surrey.

Failure merits no 'golden goodbyes'

From R. S. Fraser

Sir, Your correspondent Mr B. Jenkins (Business Letters, April 10) makes it clear that the IoD supports the view that performance should be the basis of payment for chairman and, presumably, also other senior directors.

This should also mean that poor performance should not be rewarded by the large termination payments (under the generous contracts they wrote for themselves while in

power) which we often see paid to people fired or made to resign because of their failure. It would be interesting to know whether the IoD accepts this implication of the above view and, if so, whether it should publicly condemn the practice.

Yours faithfully,
R. S. FRASER,
South View,
Cliffside,
Wilmslow,
Cheshire.

Inland Revenue levies 'tax on paying tax'

From Mr Anthony Good

Sir, J. C. S. Mackie (Business Letters, April 9), makes a very valid point on the cost to taxpayers of proving to the Inland Revenue that assessments made on them are too high.

Not only is it arguably extremely unjust that accountancy costs in preparing tax

returns are non-allowable by the Inland Revenue, but the imposition of value added tax on those costs (a tax on paying a tax?) adds insult to injury.

Yours sincerely,
ANTHONY B. M. GOOD,
39 Bullingham Mansions,
Kensington Church Street,
W8.

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

[illegible]

Portfolio

PLATINUM
From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches you have won a share of the daily prize money. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No	Company	Group	Share Price
1	BT Group	Telecom	100.00
2	Alcan	Aluminium	100.00
3	Quaker	Food	100.00
4	Orkney	Food	100.00
5	Downy	Household	100.00
6	Woolley	Food	100.00
7	RHM	Food	100.00
8	Freemantle	Media	100.00
9	PR Group	Media	100.00
10	Grand Mer	Media	100.00
11	Cook (W)	Media	100.00
12	Black Int	Media	100.00
13	Rediffusion	Media	100.00
14	Blue Chip	Media	100.00
15	Haywards	Media	100.00
16	Strathmore	Media	100.00
17	Asac Br Pire	Media	100.00
18	IMI	Media	100.00
19	Waddington (J)	Media	100.00
20	Almargem	Media	100.00
21	Investment Dis	Media	100.00
22	Capital Radio	Media	100.00
23	LASMO	Media	100.00
24	Independent	Media	100.00
25	Vaux Group	Media	100.00
26	Booth	Media	100.00
27	Telecom	Media	100.00
28	Telecom	Media	100.00
29	Telecom	Media	100.00
30	Telecom	Media	100.00
31	Telecom	Media	100.00
32	Telecom	Media	100.00
33	Telecom	Media	100.00
34	Telecom	Media	100.00
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37	Telecom	Media	100.00
38	Telecom	Media	100.00
39	Telecom	Media	100.00
40	Telecom	Media	100.00
41	Telecom	Media	100.00
42	Telecom	Media	100.00
43	Telecom	Media	100.00
44	Telecom	Media	100.00

Please take into account any minus signs.
Weekly Dividend
Please make a note of your daily share price for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT

Mr Michael Faraday, of Lincoln, won the Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. He receives £4,000.

1992	High	Low	Company	Price	%	Div	%	P/E
257	100	95	Alcan	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
258	100	95	Alcan	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
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277	100	95	Alcan	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
278	100	95	Alcan	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
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281	100	95	Alcan	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
282	100	95	Alcan	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
283	100	95	Alcan	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
284	100	95	Alcan	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
285	100	95	Alcan	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
286	100	95	Alcan	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
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1992	High	Low	Company	Price	%	Div	%	P/E
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330	100	95	Alcan	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

1992	High	Low	Company	Price	%	Div	%	P/E
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358	100	95	Alcan	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
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79	215	Franchoni	250	+ 5	12.8	6.4	9.9
33	318	James (J)	330	...	15.8	6.4	...
98	73	King Simonson	75	+ 1	10.2	18.2	...
77	212	Klownert Ben	251	+ 1	16.0	8.5	17.8
27	346	Lloyd	390	- 5	16.7	5.7	14.4
52	40	Low Scot Bk	42	...	2.7	8.7	8.9
76	204	Midland	365	- 7	3.4	1.3	...
45	308	Nat Amst Bk	311	- 1	...	8.2	11.5
227	251	N West	311	+	17.5	7.5	...

Seville builds bridges to the future

Exactly 500 years after Columbus set sail to discover the New World, Peter Stafford visits Andalusia and finds it pressing for a role in Europe

Expo '92, the much-heralded international exhibition, will open in Seville on Monday. It is a remarkable display of late 20th-century architecture that will, it is hoped, be the start of a new era for Andalusia. For one of Expo's main objectives is, by drawing attention to the region, to boost its economy. The exhibition is being held this year because 1992 is the 500th anniversary of Christopher Columbus's discovery of the New World, and Spain as a whole has seized on it as an opportunity to show the world what the country has achieved since the death of General Franco in 1975.

For Andalusia, however, it is more than that. It is true that Columbus set sail from Andalusia, from the small port of Palos, but 1992 is also a chance to give a new impetus to the region's push for modernisation. Expo, whose high-tech exhibits contrast with the old-world charm of much of Seville, is a symbol of this resolve.

In times gone by, Andalusia was one of the most prosperous parts of Spain, and even of Europe. The valley of the Guadalquivir was fertile and rich under the Romans, who called it the Baetis, and again under the Moors, who gave it its present name. A Roman bridge still carries traffic across the Guadalquivir at Córdoba, and massive chunks

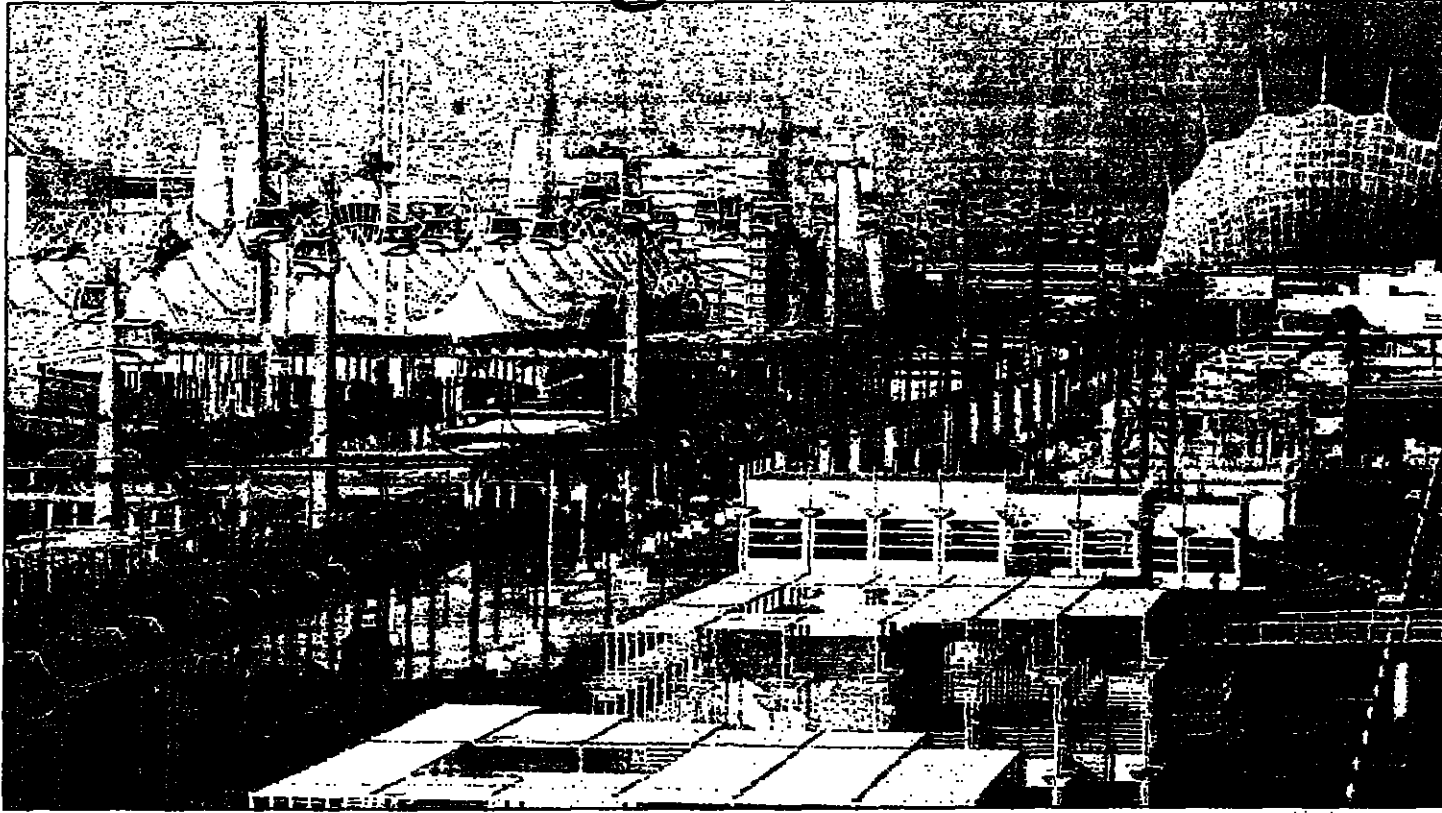
of masonry survive from the amphitheatre at Itálica, a few miles outside Seville, where the emperors Trajan and Hadrian were born.

The Moorish presence is even more marked: the great mosque at Córdoba, the tower of the cathedral in Seville, originally a minaret, and the exquisite palaces and gardens of the Alhambra at Granada. The Moors left their mark on much of Spain, but it was strongest in Andalusia, where they remained for nearly 800 years.

After they were finally defeated 500 years ago and, in the same year, Columbus discovered the New World, Seville, the capital of Andalusia, grew rich on trade with the Americas.

The region declined, however, becoming one of the more backward parts of Europe, famous chiefly for its exotic appeal and for its tourist resorts on the Costa del Sol. Manuel Chaves, premier of the *junta*, or regional government, of Andalusia, says that it has the same difficulties as Spain as a whole, but in a more acute form.

The region is moving out of its state of under-development, he says, and towards integration with the rest of Europe. But it still has high unemployment — nearly 25 per cent, official figures show — it is not yet competitive with the rest of the European Community, and there is an imbalance between the



Architecture of the future: the striking, high-tech buildings and exhibits of Expo '92 symbolise the region's push for modernisation

richer areas, on the Costa del Sol and in the west of the region, and the poorer hinterland.

Expo, therefore, has two main aims. The first is to provide a focal point for huge public works. Señor Chaves says that 1.5 million million pesetas (£8 billion) has been invested in Andalusia in preparation for Expo. This has financed,

among other things, a new high-speed train service between Madrid and Seville, new motorways and dual carriageways, new airport terminals and a new telecommunications system in Seville.

The investments were needed, Señor Chaves says, not just for Expo, but for the long-term aim of improving communications: with

in Andalusia, between Andalusia and the rest of Spain and, beyond, with the rest of Europe. They had been criticised so much money going to Andalusia, and the high-speed train had been a particular target, on the ground that it was a waste of money. But a peripheral region such as Andalusia had to be

better integrated with the rest of Spain.

The second objective is to draw attention to Andalusia's own potential, and attract foreign multinationals. This process has already begun, and in recent years Andalusia has had a healthy rate of economic growth, with some significant foreign investment. Since

1982 it has also had, like other Spanish regions, its own statute of autonomy. The system of regional autonomy has meant not just greater freedom for Andalusians, and others, to run their own affairs, but a transfer of funds from the richer regions to the poorer ones, and Andalusia has been one of the gainers.

Politically, the region is a stronghold of the Socialist party. Felipe González, the prime minister, comes from Seville, and Señor Chaves is a Socialist. But though the Socialists remain strong in the countryside, there has been a move away from them in some of the towns.

In last year's municipal election in Seville, the capital of the region, the Socialists lost their overall majority, though they remained the largest party, and a coalition of the nationalist Partido Andalucista (PA) and the conservative Partido Popular (PP) took control. Alejandro Rojas Marcos, the founder of the PA, became mayor.

Andalusia is a region where personalities often count as much as policies, and Señor Rojas Marcos claims he has given a greater personality to the city council. His party, while not advocating independence for Andalusia, wants greater autonomy.

The ultimate test of Expo's success will come after it closes its doors on October 12. It is important for Andalusia, and for Spain as a whole, that the world should come to Seville and be dazzled by Expo. But the longer-term question is whether it will bring about a lasting improvement in Andalusia's quality of life, and prospects for the future.

Still room for a walk on the wild side

Conservationists are fighting plans for coastal development that threaten an unspoiled paradise

Andalusia is best known for its resorts on the Costa del Sol, for the ancient cities of Seville, Córdoba and Granada, and, this year, for Expo '92, being held in Seville. It is Spain's largest region, however, and there is another Andalusia, covering 17 per cent of its land area, which is its many unspoiled nature reserves.

The best known is the Coto Doñana national park, not far from Seville, to the southwest. It is one of Europe's biggest unspoiled areas, teeming with wildlife, and an ideal place for photo safaris. A way-station for a great number of Europe's migratory birds, and a nesting and breeding ground for others, it is a permanent home for still others. It has wetlands, savannas, shifting sand-dunes and Mediterranean-type woodlands.

Coto Doñana extends for 405 square miles, including buffer zones. In it there are deer, foxes, mongooses, lynxes, snakes up to 6ft long, wild boar and other animals. Patient watchers may be rewarded with such sights as thousands of flamingos lifting off at one time from a lake, or the silent flight of a solitary imperial eagle through a cloudless sky in search of its prey.

Other, more sombre shadows are being cast over the park, however. So far international pressure from environmentalists has staved off construction of a big tourist complex on a privately-owned stretch of wild Atlantic beach near Mariles, which is bounded on three sides by park lands. Building permits have been granted, however, and not so far revoked.

The objection of conservationists is that the project would put a burden on water resources, which are already diminishing as a result of wells and irrigation ditches on farmland outside the park borders.

Big as it is, Coto Doñana is not the largest nature reserve in Andalusia. There are four other nature park complexes which are bigger, although none of them has such an

exuberance of wildlife or is so rigorously protected.

Three nature parks adjoin each other, stretching along the northern borders of the provinces of Huelva and Seville and into the province of Córdoba, and together they cover an area four times as big as Coto Doñana. They are Sierra de Aracena y Picos de Aroche, Sierra Norte and Sierra de Hornachuelos. They are grouped around the wooded backbone of the Sierra Morena, the haunt of legendary 19th-century Andalusian bandits.

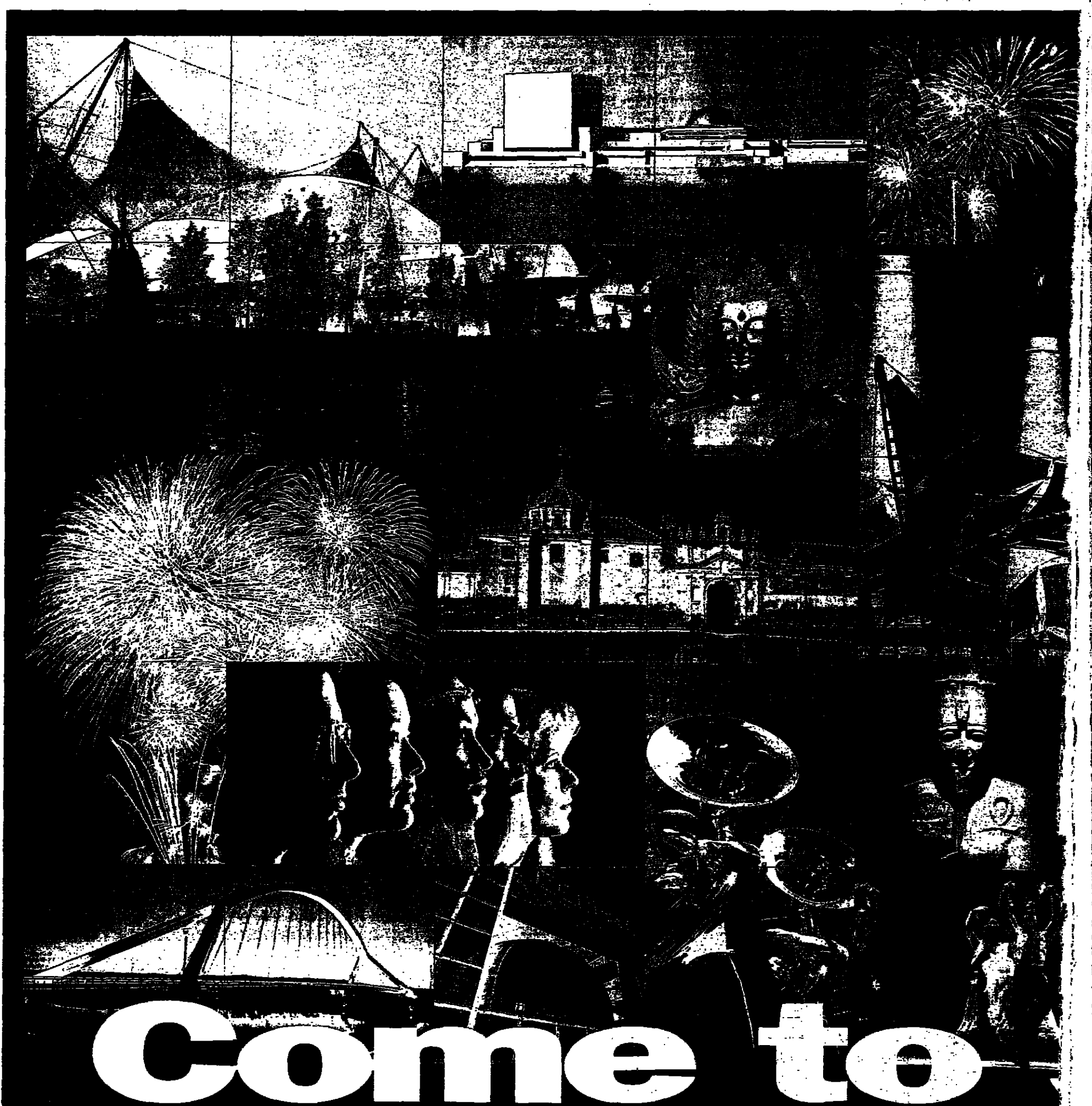
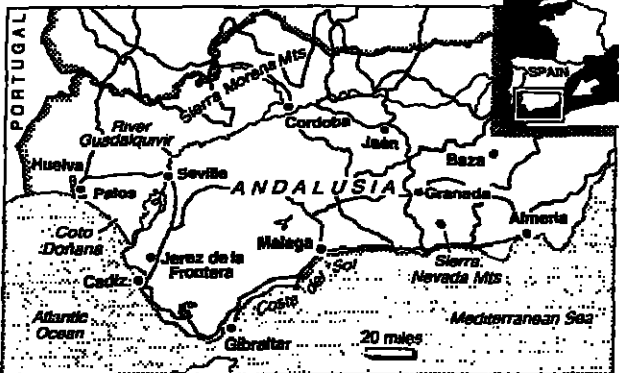
Weasels, ferrets, wildcats, eagles, hawks and even the endangered black buzzard live among the twisted oaks, the huge old chestnut trees, the pines and the cork trees. The best, and most expensive, hams in Spain come from range-reared grey Iberian pigs fattened on acorns at the western edge of this area.

Spain's biggest nature park, Sierras de Cazorla, Segura y las Villas, is a lovely stretch of wilderness that covers 826 square miles of the provinces of Jaén and Granada. It has a smaller park adjoining it, Sierra de Castil. They lie across a watershed that has forested mountains with peaks well over a mile high and, on opposite sides, the sources of the Guadalquivir, which runs west past Seville to the Atlantic, and the Segura, which runs eastward through Murcia to the Mediterranean.

This is a big-game-hunters' paradise. The unique *capra hispanica*, mountain goat, mountain sheep, ibex and wild boar are among the animals sharing the grey crags and dense forests.

And there are also other parks: the Los Alcornocales and Sierra de Grazalema nature parks at the western end of the Costa del Sol, which include, surprisingly, the rainiest point in Spain; and the Sierra Nevada nature park in the lofty, unharmed Alpujara mountains near Granada, which has 540 square miles suitable for hiking, trekking on horseback or cycling.

HARRY DEBELIUS



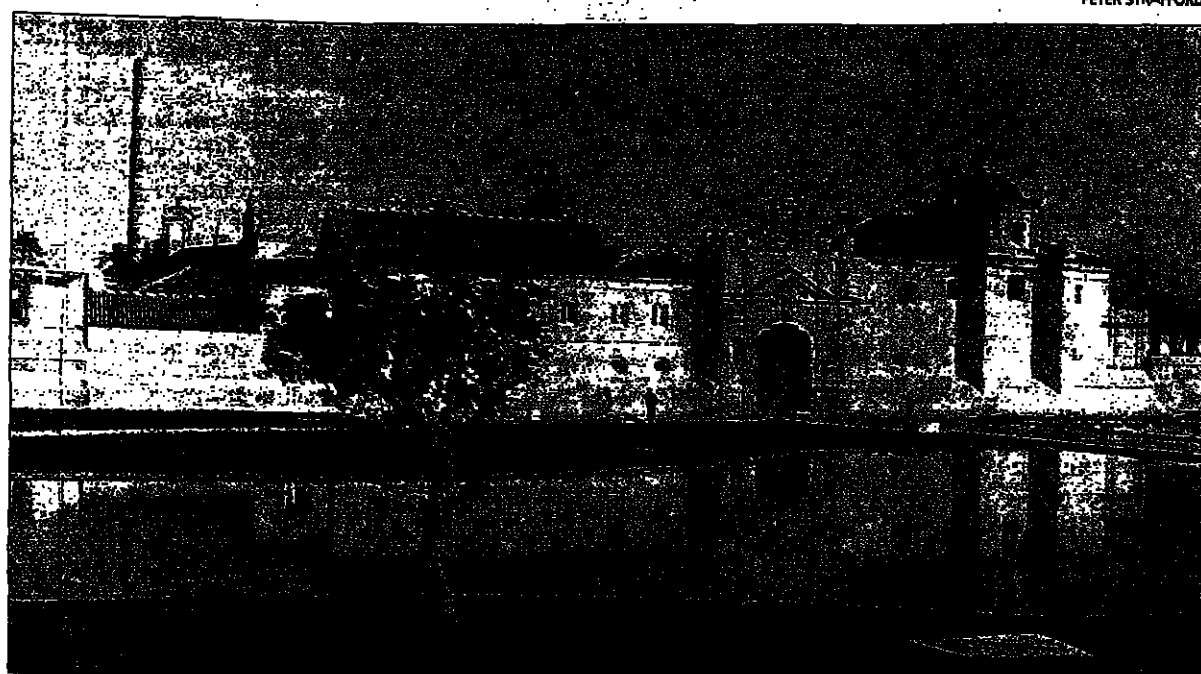
Come to

Welcome to the great fiesta. The biggest show of all time. Come to EXPO'92. The great Universal Expo-

sition. Unique. Unrepeatable. With everything that's best in the world. You'll never forget it. Come to

From saintly to secular

PETER STRAFFORD



Ancient glory in a modern world: King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia of Spain will entertain at the monastery

The focal point of Expo '92 will be the Cartuja, or Carthusian monastery, of Santa Maria de las Cuevas. Founded outside Seville in 1400, this monastery has a link with Christopher Columbus because he spent time there in the 1490s while preparing for his third and fourth voyages. After his death in 1506 he was buried for a time in one of its chapels.

It also has a British connection, however. In 1835 the Cartuja was expropriated

Tradition and progress makes the Cartuja a fine showcase

ed by the Liberal government then in power in Madrid, and the monks were expelled. Three years later, it was leased to Charles Pickman, an industrialist from Liverpool, who turned the monastery into a ceramics factory and, in the process, introduced the industrial revolution to Andalusia.

In the past few years the Cartuja has been restored, and both its former roles are clear to see. The church, chapels, cloisters and courtyards of the monastery, with their ancient painted tiles, 15th-century wall paintings and a carved-wood *artesonado* ceiling, may still be admired. High above are a soaring brick chimney built

by Pickman & Company, and a fine of conical kilns.

This juxtaposition was appreciated by the Spanish organisers of Expo, who saw it as symbolising the combination of the traditional and the progressive. As a result, both monastery and factory have been at least partly preserved, and the Cartuja is to be used by King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia for their official entertaining during Expo.

PETER STRAFFORD

Simple comforts to ease crowds

Frank Smith finds that water adds a cool touch to Expo '92

The Spanish authorities have created something of a rod for their own backs. In their determination to use Expo '92, the universal exposition in Seville, as a showcase with which to correct false impressions of Spain — as the country of the siesta and mañana, where nothing gets done — the organisers have unwittingly invited critical eyes, both at home and abroad, to find fault.

That the focus of attention has centred so much on "Will it be ready on time or won't it?", almost to the exclusion of what has actually been achieved, is a shame. In reality, whether or not it is totally finished by the opening day, Expo is impressive. The first sensation is of the sheer size of it all. No matter which approach to the island of La Cartuja the visitor chooses, on foot, by road, rail, or river, the feeling of entering a small city is unavoidable.

Separated from Seville by the river Guadalquivir, Expo '92 is no mere annex to the old Moorish city, despite being linked to it by seven new bridges. It is the biggest and most expensive universal exposition ever organised. The site houses nearly 100 specially designed pavilions; in which a record 112 countries will be vying for the attention of millions of visitors.

The pavilions range from the functional to the futuristic and the exotic. Mexico's is a pair of giant X's. Morocco's a recreation of traditional Islamic architecture. Finland's a juxtaposition of two huge abstract forms. Hungary has created a fanciful line of



Awaiting discovery: tranquil corner of the Expo '92 site

wooden church spires atop what looks like an upturned boat.

The principal theme of the exhibition, set by Spain, the

pool, spoiling the full visual, almost eye-level, effect of the water. A pint of bitter may go down well with the sweaty and weary visitor, but an uninterrupted view of the water might have proved more refreshing.

The real fascination of the pavilions is the sense of identity that each country is trying to sell to the world. A discreet but huge Union flag shimmers through the water over the entrance to the British pavilion, for example. But the Marks & Spencer displays and the Royal Doulton wares inside are a little dull.

Saudi Arabia has set out its stall as a multi-coloured patchwork bedouin tent. In front of the German pavilion, as high-tech as any, there revolves a rustic roundabout of traditional figures with moving limbs, which must qualify as the most kitsch display of the whole site.

There are also some real surprises. The United States, for example, has put up a couple of geodesic domes, recycled and dusted down from a previous fair. It is surely a sign of the times when the Americans are seen deliberately to underplay their hand. Perhaps, as the only surviving superpower, they no longer feel the need to promote themselves as the past.

And it may come as a shock to those who might have expected Japan to sell itself as the most technologically advanced nation of the world to be confronted with what is described as the world's biggest building in wood. It is no shack, however, and it is arguably the most stunning and powerful building of all.

The pavilion is dominated by a majestic wooden staircase, and the Japanese claim that the visitor who chooses to enter it by climbing the steps (there is the option of ascending by escalator) will be transported from reality into a world of dreams and spirituality.

Inside the pavilion, the Japanese have deliberately accentuated the cultural, as they did last year in the Japan Festival in Britain. There are two large sculptures, symbolising the dual nature of Japanese religious belief. One is dedicated to Buddhism, the other to Shintoism.

The main display is of traditional origami figures and trees, depicting the four seasons of Japan's landscape, followed by a simple display of Japanese writing, on video screens, showing how it developed from Chinese script.

Technology is minimal, almost as if the Japanese were content to let the other pavilions, whose use of advanced technology made in Japan is pronounced, speak for them. When

you have cornered the market, it is probably safe not to crow too much about it. The ironic feature of the Japanese pavilion is its impermanence. Having taken 11 months to build — by way of contrast, the Venezuelan pavilion can be put up in 13 hours flat — this magnificent structure will be destroyed after Expo '92 closes.

Pride of place in the exposition is naturally given to the host country, Spain. Its pavilion, an imposing cube of marble, stands on the edge of a big artificial lake at the head of the avenue of Europe and surrounded by the pavilions of the 17 autonomous regions of Spain. It is a perfect reflection in physical terms of the new political reality of Spain.

The display inside the Spanish pavilion is perhaps a little too ambitious, trying to cram in as it does an exhibition of Spanish art, both classical and modern, as well as a complete run through the country's history, in six galleries. They pass from its Visigothic origins to modern perceptions of Spaniards through the eyes of foreigners.

Architecturally, however, it is imposing. But a word of warning. In the large reception patio, all in white marble, there are four pools of water that are deceptive in their simplicity.

That seems to be the only conclusion to be drawn after a recent visit to Expo by an Israeli delegation accompanying President Herzog for the 500th anniversary of the expulsion of the Jews from Spain. In the glare of the midday sun, one of its members simply could not see where the marble ended and the water began, and he fell into a pool.

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Four-year plan towards prosperity

Frank Smith assesses the region's economic prospects after Expo '92

One of the main challenges for Andalusia in the immediate future is how to take advantage of the more than £8 billion of Expo-related investment in the region. Four-fifths of this has been spent on infrastructure: the high-speed train link between Seville and Madrid, a new airport, and hundreds of miles of roads and motorways, concentrated mainly in the western part of the region, providing greater access into and out of Seville, the Andalusian capital.

Perhaps one should not look gift horses in the mouth, but it is also necessary to put this spending into proportion. The money spent on Expo over the past six years, though three times higher than originally forecast, is less spectacular when compared with Andalusia's regional budget, which amounts to £5 billion this year alone. Andalusia has the biggest budget of all Spain's autonomous regions, even including Catalonia, the most prosperous.

In Andalusia, a large part of the money goes on subsidies. Unemployment is currently at nearly 25 per cent according to the official figures, and the regional gross domestic product is only 54.4 per cent of the European average — compared with 76.7 per cent for Spain as a whole. So the economy of this region of nearly eight million people, in which agricul-

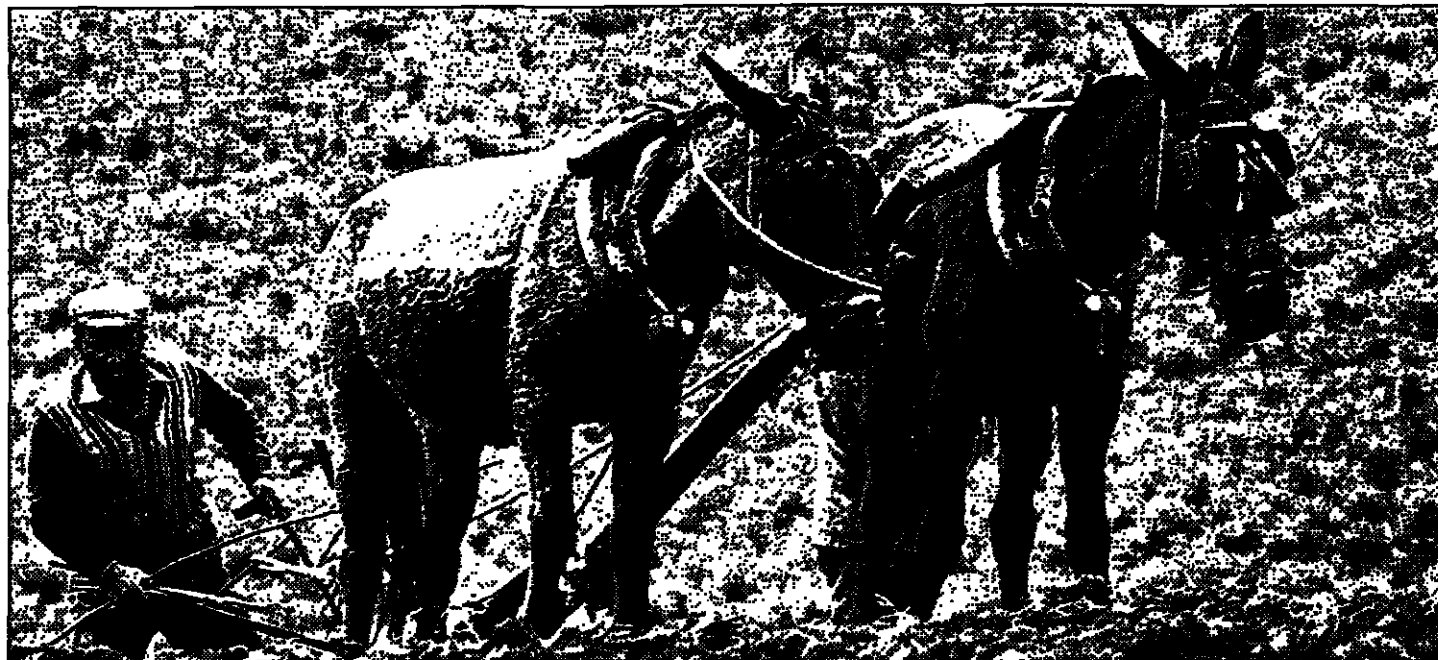
ture continues to be important, will continue to need help long after most of the Expo site has been dismantled and taken away.

The omens are not good. The region may soon find funds from Madrid beginning to dry up. The Spanish government is determined to meet the European Community's tough conditions for economic and monetary convergence by 1997, and that will inevitably mean less spending on the regions by the centre.

Jaime Montaner, councillor for economy and finance in the regional government, who is, in effect, Andalusia's minister for economy, trade, industry and tourism all rolled into one, refuses to be downcast, however, at the region's economic prospects post-Expo. "The figures show that, after Madrid and Barcelona, we have the biggest share of foreign investment in Spain," he says.

"This used to be mainly in property, but more and more it is now in industry. And that is because Andalusia is no longer just a good place to live, but also a good place to work and to invest."

Rafael Camacho, editor of *Andalucía Económica*, believes that this statement needs to be qualified. He agrees that foreign investment in industry has increased, but argues that much of it — such as the Guinness take-over of Cruz Campo,



Rural past: 'We have to find a way to end what has been a dependency culture,' Alfonso Pajuelo, economic planning director, says

the brewers — is simply a case of local companies being bought out by foreigners.

The regional government, controlled by the Socialists, is pinning much of its hopes on a four-year plan for economic development whose main purpose is to modernise Andalusia's productive system. Señor Camacho believes, however, that too much emphasis has been placed on attracting

investment from the rest of Spain and from abroad.

"It is no good sitting around waiting for foreigners to invest here, as Ford and General Motors have done in Huelva," he says. "The future is in our own hands, and we need the money from our own people."

Alfonso Pajuelo, director of economic planning for the region, agrees. "We have to find a way of

ending what has been until now a dependency culture," he says. "If we want to create more jobs, we need to put more emphasis on setting up new and more diversified local industries."

He admits, however, that this change will be neither quick nor easy, and his industrial policy is, at heart, based on a philosophical approach. "To convert the benefits of the investment we have received

into material and personal gains," he says, "we need a change of mentality."

Señor Pajuelo's task is to drag the region into the 21st century by creating business-orientated attitudes. Andalusia is traditionally an agricultural society, and nearly 60 per cent of its economy is now made up of services, mainly tourism. The regional plan places much of its emphasis on re-training pro-

grammes and on new business start-ups.

There is also much talk about the benefits that will ensue from converting Expo into a high-tech research and technological park once the 1992 fiesta is over. Exactly what will happen there, however, is difficult to discern. Expo was originally conceived as a place for pure research, but the plans have recently been changed, and it is now hoped to open it up to business while creating what is being called a "thematic cultural park."

According to the regional government, a total of 24 foreign companies have expressed an interest in setting up on the site after Expo '92 closes. Officials admit the idea is still in embryonic form, but hope that it will stimulate business ventures in Andalusia and attract foreigners.

There are many, however, who dismiss the project as wishful thinking. "The idea of converting Andalusia into the southern California of Europe is a joke," Rafael Alén, a Seville-based businessman, says. "We lack discipline and business acumen, and foreigners aren't going to invest here just because the sun shines."

Señor Montaner rejects this view. "It reminds me of all those people on the right who said that Spaniards were not ready for democracy after Franco died. We proved them wrong and, in the case of the Andalusian economy, we'll prove them wrong again."

Fiery symbol of the Spanish soul

Flamenco survives because it allows growth, instead of sticking to rules

Flamenco, the combination of dancing, singing and guitar-playing which is one of Andalusia's best-known products, began in the region about two centuries ago. It was first heard, as song, in and around Jerez de la Frontera, centre of the sherry country, and at the time it was the exclusive preserve of the gypsies.

Not long after, non-gypsies, called *payos* in southern Spain, began to sing it, too, and by the end of the 19th century flamenco was being performed in cafés all over Spain.

Flamenco has always been

more complex than it might appear, taking many forms and constantly evolving in new directions. A recent four-page feature on flamenco, for instance, in *El País*, Spain's premier newspaper, did not once mention dance.

On the other hand it paid full attention to singing, including interviews with Enrique Morente and Carmen Linares, two of the best-known artists of the day, and it referred to the guitar.

The fact is that these days the purists are preoccupied

with flamenco song. The feature also took up another, quite different, direction in which flamenco has moved. It had profiles of two groups, *Ketama* and *Pata Negra*, now riding high on the "flamenco-fusion" wave, which mixes flamenco and various kinds of contemporary music.

Flamenco means different things to different people. For the purist it is song, known as *cante* or, when especially rough, *cante jondo* (deep song). For someone brought up on a musical diet of pop, on

the other hand, flamenco is guitars, fast rhythms, clapping, shouting, drums and anything else that sounds agreeably Latin.

A critical discipline, flamencology, exists to unravel flamenco's many strands, and testifies to its musical and cultural richness.

The difficulty about dance, or *baile*, according to the flamencologists is that authentic styles have been lost as performers have altered them to cater for tourism.

It is easy to say what is bad

flamenco: most of what is put on in *tablaos*, or clubs, in Madrid and other big cities, or down on the coast. For the real thing, the places to go are the Madrid nightspots designed to appeal to the *aficionado*. Casa Patas and La Caracola are among the best.

In the south, it is best to wait until summer, when flamenco festivals take place in towns right across Andalusia. For the enthusiast, there is the month-long festival, the *Bienal*, held every two years in Seville, today's flamenco capital.

But what is the real thing? Flamenco is primarily a matter of individual expression, and many performers, particularly dancers, have stamped their own imprint on the art, giving it the force of legend.

The greatest names in *baile* this century include La Argentinita, Carmen Amaya and Antonio — whose ballets had so much impact in London in the 1950s and 1960s, and who is now retired. Among contemporaries, prestigious names include Mario Maya, Antonio Gades and Cristina Hoyos.

While respecting the dignity and passion of flamenco tradition, these artists have also been great innovators. Innovation is the key to flamenco's survival.

Cante, which was once confined to gypsy blacksmiths and labourers in their Andalusian ghettos, has moved in many directions. Enrique Morente, for instance, has put the words of poets, Spanish and Moorish, to flamenco music, and has experimented with orchestration. "This music is living music, not museum music," he says. "Otherwise, we would be unemployed, stuck in the

cave, the forge, the fields. This is an art for professionals."

Carmen Linares, one of the "big" female flamenco voices of the moment, who uses instruments not traditionally associated with flamenco to accompany her, feels the same way. "Flamenco, like all arts, must evolve with the passage of time," she says.

Paco de Lucía, the guitarist, is the musician who has probably done more than any other in the past 20 years to enrich and enlarge the flamenco repertoire. Now in his forties, and a *payo* like Morente, he comes from Algeciras, the unprepossessing port next to Gibraltar.

He was noticed in the 1960s for his astonishing technical ability, became an international solo star in the 1970s and by the 1980s was taking his flamenco wizardry into experimental waters with jazz guitarists such as John McLaughlin and Al di Meola. His latest recording is of Joaquín Rodrigo's "Concierto de Aranjuez", a flamenco incursion into classical terrain.

Musically, one of the most exciting aspects of flamenco is that it can be treated as open form, not unlike jazz, where improvisation and idiosyncrasy play a much larger part than rules. Paco de Lucía seems to invent something every time he picks up a guitar. He is one of the few flamenco artists who can.

All performers, whether guitarists, singers or dancers, must watch how far they stray from "the real thing". The most talented maintain that special Andalusian, bitter-sweet flavour, while continuing to develop the art-form.

James Woodall's book on Spain and flamenco, *In Search of the Fire Dance*, will be published by Sinclair-Stevenson on May 11.



Question of style: flamenco is much more than a dance

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'British Sherry', which is neither British nor sherry, is depressing sales

Sherry sales have been falling since 1979 and have almost reached the level of 1975. In Britain, traditionally the biggest market, sales have plunged to less than half the figure for 1979.

What has gone wrong? The grapes are the same as ever, grown in the same chalky white *albariza* soil around the ancient city of Jerez. The wine is the result of the same natural processes. Quality control is better than ever. Why have the British dropped behind the Dutch in the sherry sippers' league?

For Juan Luis Bretón, the manager of the Sherry Growers' and Shippers' Association (Aces) in Jerez, there is no question about who or what is to blame. The culprit is "British Sherry". This, he says, is not sherry, since it does not come from the sherry district, a clearly defined triangle of land in the province of Cadiz. Yet, because it pays a lower rate of excise duty in Britain, it undercuts the product from Jerez.

"The market share of sherry compared with British Sherry has changed from the traditional 60/40 to almost the opposite, with sherry showing a progressive negative tendency," Señor Bretón says.

He concedes that, at least for the time being, there is nothing that the Spaniards can do to prevent the use of the name "sherry", however wrong they believe it to be. A High Court

The same only by name

decision in Britain has confirmed that "sherry" is a corruption of Xeres, an old spelling of Jerez. But the Act of Adhesion, by which Spain became a member of the European Community in 1986, allowed the use of the term "British Sherry" at least until the end of 1995, when it is due to be renegotiated.

The Spanish argue, however, that excise duties in Britain discriminate illegally in favour of British Sherry, and they have prepared a case against Britain, to be presented to the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg this month.

British Sherry is a product manufactured in Britain by adding water and sugar to imported concentrated grape juice and fermenting it. Señor Bretón points out that the grape juice does not have to come from any particular country or region. Flavouring and colouring are added, as well as distilled spirits, to bring

it to the alcoholic strength desired; other industrial processes may also be involved.

Not only does it not come from the Jerez area, therefore, but it is not the result of the traditional natural vinification process of sherry. Nor is it British in terms of the origin of the grape juice.

The case being brought against Britain is based on the levels of excise duties applying in this country to alcoholic beverages.

Since July 1985, wines with more than 15 per cent alcohol by volume, and less than 18 per cent, have had to pay 74 per cent more than wines of between 10 and 15 per cent. At 18 per cent, there is another step up the scale.

This has the various sherries produced in the Jerez region hard. Pale dry sherry, in its two varieties, *fino* and *manzanilla*, has to have an alcoholic content of at least 15.5 per cent to assure its stability.

Amonillado, or medium, sherry naturally has at least 16 per cent. *Oloroso*, or dark, sherry has at least 18 per cent.

British Sherry, on the other hand, changed its alcoholic content from 16 per cent to 15 per cent or less when the new excise duty levels were introduced.

The Spaniards think it is significant that the change in excise duties was not raised during the entry negotiations between mid-1984 and mid-1985, and was brought in one month after the Act was signed. They maintain that if British Sherry was in the same excise category as sherry at the time Spain's membership was negotiated, the two products should still be in a common tax category.

They also argue that what is currently sold as British Sherry is a different product from the one dealt with in the Act of Adhesion because of the change in its alcoholic content, and is not covered by it.

The sherry region has had other troubles, including a 50-day strike last September and October, which was the longest ever to hit the sherry *bodega* and led to the loss of much of the year's grape crop. In Señor Bretón's opinion, however, those difficulties are "insignificant" by comparison with British Sherry's domination of the British market.

HARRY DEBELIUS

Decision anticipates further change

S Africa awarded 1995 World Cup by unanimous vote

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE International Rugby Football Board (IRFB) ended speculation about the venue of the 1995 Rugby World Cup yesterday — two days in advance of the anticipated announcement — by awarding the tournament to South Africa. It is a decision that the rugby world at large expected, but which will still create unease given the political and social development yet to be achieved in the republic.

The decision came at the annual council meeting of the board in Wellington, New Zealand, which ends tomorrow. "Following full discussion by the board policy committee and the council it was unanimously agreed that the 1995 tournament would take place in South Africa," a prepared statement by Keith Rowlands, the IRFB secretary, said.

Given the Welsh Rugby Union's decision to oppose South Africa's candidature on grounds of "continued political uncertainty", such unanimity comes as a surprise. However, Dudley Wood, the secretary of the Rugby Football Union, said: "We are mindful of the political uncertainties still existing in South Africa, but we hope they will be resolved by 1995. In concluding South Africa would be the best venue, we took into account that New Zealand hosted a large part of the inaugural World Cup in 1987."

Publication of the decision was advanced presumably to avoid the possibility of a leak in a country which had also bid for the tournament and where speculation was intense. Technically four countries had bid for the third World Cup — New Zealand, co-hosts with Australia in 1987 — South Africa, Canada and Argentina — but the Argentinians were always prepared to concede South African claims and Canada, despite its playing success in

1991, lacked the tradition that has governed so many World Cup decisions. The desire to put the tournament into South Africa, where the infrastructure to host such an event is without parallel, has been evident since political changes were introduced by F.W. de Klerk's government over the last three years; the counterbalance has been the continuing violence in the black townships and the uncertainty over the formulation of a fully representative government.

However last month's referendum supporting the pace of political change, allied to the formal launch of the unified governing body, the South African Rugby Football Union (Sarf), has convinced the doubters, who must believe that in the next three years the degree of racial harmony in the republic will increase.

The decision has been made easier by the support apparent from the African National Congress (ANC), whose representative, Arnold Stofie, said: "The timing is crucial. If it had been this year, it would have been too soon, blacks would have had no commitment to the game and unity would not be in place."

The Rev Stofie, whose opponent, Danie Craven, president of the old South African Rugby Board for over thirty years, said: "After being deprived for so long of international competition, the only fair way to compensate South Africa for the long, lean years of isolation is to give us the World Cup."

After eight years' official absence, his country returns to international competition in Romania and Italy in June, hosts New Zealand and Australia in August and tours France and England in October and November.



Craven: compensation

Cornwall sustain greater support

By DAVID HANDS

ALTHOUGH the Rugby Football Union (RFU) is expecting a crowd of more than 50,000 at Saturday's ADT county championship final between Cornwall, the holders, and Lancashire, the overwhelming majority will be supporting the Cornish.

They have surpassed last season's effort by selling more than 30,000 tickets, whereas Lancashire, who have teams in both Saturday's finals, at senior and under-21 levels, have sold only a few hundred. Of their initial allocation from the RFU of 4,000, more than three-quarters have been forwarded to Cornwall.

It is a disappointing return for a county which has upheld the traditional place of the county championship in the English domestic structure. Lancashire officials suggest the clash with the Easter holiday weekend has taken away supporters, while others, who might be considering a trip to London, would prefer to support Orrell's attempt on the league title at Harlequins on Easter Monday.

Old will rejoin old club

ALAN Old, the former England and British Isles stand-off half, is to rejoin his former club, Middlesbrough, as first XV coach (David Hands writes). Old, who was the Rugby Football Union's first technical director for the Northern Division before returning to teaching, will help to develop a new strategy for the club, which is occupying a midway place in North Division One.

The appointment of Old, coach to Northumberland, is part of an overall package that will bring a paid playing administrator to Acklam Park, in the hope of achieving promotion to the national divisions of the Courage Clubs Championship.

The Northern Division hopes to play against the touring South Africans under the Eiland Road floodlights next season. Negotiations with Leeds United are in train for the match.

SOUTH AFRICAN TOUR ITINERARY. November 4 v Midlands (Leicester, 2.30); 7 v England (Bristol); 10 v North (Leeds); 13 v Scotland (Glasgow); 16 v Wales (Cardiff); 19 v Ireland (Dublin); 22 v France (Paris); 25 v Australia (Sydney); 28 v New Zealand (Auckland).

BASKETBALL

Leicester strike threat withdrawn

By NICHOLAS HARLING

THE players of Leicester City Riders have now promised to see out the season after threatening not to go ahead with their Carlsberg League play-off match against Worthing Bears last week.

The crowd at Granby Halls could have been left without a game had not Kevin Routledge, the Leicester chairman, who is also chairman of the Basketball League, convinced the players in the dressing-room before Friday's game that they would receive the money they are owed.

"We wouldn't have played the game unless he had satisfied us that the money is coming," Jerry Jenkins, the team captain said.

"Kevin's been hit by the recession. A lot of people owe him money and he's in a bad situation. But he's trying and we've got faith in him. He's a good director, who has never

backed down." As a part-time player, the 6ft 9in Jenkins, aged 38, is not the worst hit. "I've been getting a little every week," he said, "but now that the season is nearly over, it has become a question of how are we going to survive and how are we going to get the rest of the money."

In any event, Leicester's season is likely to end on Saturday at Worthing, whose 102-90 victory in the first leg makes them strong favourites to earn a Wembley place next month, especially if an ankle injury he received in the first minute on Friday, means Jenkins will be unable to play any part.

He buckled in a fall under the full, considerable weight of Dale Shackelford, the Worthing player-coach, who went on to collect 25 points. Brown hit 28 for Leicester.

"At least we played with a lot of intensity," Jenkins said.

"Players had been going through the motions because of this money thing but the only pity this time was that we didn't get the breaks."

Both Kingston and Thames Valley Tigers should secure their Wembley places in tonight's second legs. Kingston will be looking to Russ Saunders to add to his season's best individual score of 48 points, including six three-pointers, that gave the champions victory by 103-18 against his old club, Birmingham Bullets.

Although Tigers were beaten by 16 points in the league on their home court by Hemel Hempstead Royals a month ago, tonight's game is more likely to follow the pattern of Saturday's first leg, which they won 97-64.

SECOND LEGS (8pm): Tonight: Kingston v Birmingham; Thames Valley v Hemel Hempstead; Saturday: Worthing v Leicester.



Supreme example: Gary Herbert, the cox, is watched by his national eight as he and Di Ellis, an Amateur Rowing Association official, accept the award

Medal eight on trial

By MIKE ROSEWELL

THE TIMES/MINET SUPREME AWARD



BRITAIN'S men's eight brought the world championships to a stirring conclusion in Vienna last year, when Tim Foster stroked his crew to renewed efforts in the last 500 metres to snatch the bronze medal from Romania by 0.3sec. The subsequent Times/Minet Supreme Award, given to the group to assist its build-up to the Olympic Games in Barcelona this summer, has not been wasted.

The crew has remained in full training and was scattered among the Molesey, Leander and London University boats that filled the first three places in the Tideway Head last month.

The only absentee was Anton Obholzer, who transferred his allegiance to sculling during the winter months and was seen in the Scullers' Head last Saturday.

Peter Bridge, who was in Britain's coxed pair in Vienna last year, distinguished himself in the winning Oxford Boat Race crew and is a strong contender for a place in the eight.

Martin Cross, a teacher, was at bow in the Vienna eight and the inaugural winner of the Minet Rower of the Year Trophy last December. He is trying for his fourth Olympic vest this year and

fours of last year. The latter crew, stroked by Redgrave's former partner, Simon Berrisford, missed a medal in Vienna by 0.2sec.

The aim of the week is to identify the leading six or seven pairs and to place them into an eight and a four, although Lees is unwilling to say, at this stage, which will be given priority.

He is also reluctant to say whether the four will be coxed or coxless, although he does admit that the former "is the targeted boat". With the depth of talent available, he is also hinting at a possible coxed pair.

Performances at the Cologne and Essen regattas, both of British and rival crews, will presumably clarify the situation before the pre-Olympic regatta at Lucerne.

The Times/Minet Supreme Awards are part of a £2 million sponsorship package from Minet — the London-based firm of international insurance brokers — to help fund Britain's preparations for the Olympic Games this year.

The awards, which are administered by the Sports Aid Foundation, are being made to sportsmen and women whose outstanding performances have brought distinction and honour to British sport and are likely medal contenders.

VOLLEYBALL

Liverpool show way for the north

REEBOK Liverpool City became the first northern team to take one of the leading English trophies when they were unexpected winners of the men's Supercup — effectively the national league play-offs — at Reading University (Roddy MacKenzie writes).

Liverpool took revenge on Polonia Ealing for their defeat in last season's Royal Bank of Scotland English

Cup final when they defeated the London side in five sets, 15-9, 15-7, 7-15, 8-15, 15-10, to clinch the title.

Team Mizuno Malory, the league and cup winners and victors in the Supercup for the previous five years, could finish only third. Malory beat Hilton Leeds in the third-fourth place play-off 13-15, 17-15, 15-12, 15-3.

Woolwich Brixton edged out Trafford to win the women's event. Brixton held on to win 9-15, 15-7, 13-15, 15-8, 17-16. The third-fourth play-off also went to five sets. Ashcombe Dorking beating Dynamo London 6-15, 15-8, 15-12, 13-15, 16-14.

Scotland's senior men finished second in the Four Nations Cup in Luxembourg after beating the host nation on Sunday 15-7, 15-9, 15-4.

Vicious circle created by square screen

By PETER BARNARD

SPORT ON TELEVISION
THE WEEK IN REVIEW

ALTHOUGH I am not famously skilled at making patterns with motorised lawn mowers, I did take some satisfaction from glancing out of the window during the Rumbelows Cup final to affirm that at least my patch was looking better than Wembley Stadium's. No doubt the head groundsman had done his best, but the remnant markings of American football on the Wembley turf gave off the feeling that we were, at least subliminally, watching a different contest altogether.

This may explain Nottingham Forest's use of what is known as the hurry-up offense across the Atlantic. So anxious were Forest to get on with free kicks and throw-ins, and not just after they went a goal behind, one felt that at any moment they might bring on a couple of wide receivers and convert their excellent young goalkeeper into a quarterback.

The match was not all that it was billed to be. My heart always sinks when Elton Welsby appears on screen to tell me that game has the potential to be one of the greatest at Wembley for some years.

Experience tells us that a good team playing another good team does not often add up to a great game, but Sunday's encounter was undoubtedly absorbing and mostly free of the nerves that often rack Wembley finals.

This encounter marked 30 years of the League Cup, described by its creator, Alan Hardaker, as "the people's final". The description fits because the supporters get most of the tickets, unlike the disgraceful situation that still prevails at the FA Cup final where most of the seats seem to be occupied by FA time servers and far-flung committee men.

Any anniversary is a good excuse for a television programme so on Saturday night ITV ran an interesting programme on the competition's history, a reminder that the early days were marked by giant-killing acts such as Swindon's overpowering

of Arsenal in a final dominated by the remarkable Don Rogers.

There was also a nice link between that preview and the hour-long pre-match programme on Saturday, which showed early schoolboy footage of a contemporary winger with even more potential: Ryan Giggs, of Manchester United. But there is still a feeling that the League Cup, for all that it can now mean a place in Europe for the winners, is one competition too many.

Interestingly, we learned that Giggs's somewhat disappointing performance in an England schools international was the product of him having played more than 70 matches in that season, proof that the fixture list is ludicrously crowded at every level.

In the professional game, the excuse is money. But the chase for money, contributed to in no small measure by television's seductive deals, is part of the vicious circle which no one appears able to break. The upshot of this inertia is the jaded look that both Forest and United carried at times on Sunday.

Jaded looks are harder to spot in golf. Certainly Fred Couples played the last round of the Masters as if out for a Sunday afternoon stroll and apart from veteran Ray Floyd's charge there never looked like being a serious threat to Couples's lead.

That gave me the chance to enjoy the folksy commentary of Peter Alliss and his CBS colleagues, who are dab hands at down-home phraseology. One said of Floyd: "He may be an old dog but he can still hunt," although not with the consistency young Couples demonstrated.

The other pleasure of Augusta is that the course always looks an absolute picture. You could not have mistaken it for Wembley.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Decline of Hull costs their coach his job

By KEITH MACKLIN

HULL, who have slumped from Challenge Cup semi-finalists and premiership holders to a place in the relegation zone, yesterday dismissed Noel Cleal, their Australian coach.

Cleal took over from his compatriot, Brian Smith, last season and steered Hull to a premiership victory over Widnes. They were beaten narrowly by Castleford in this season's cup semi-final. However, a sequence of defeats has seen them tumble out of the top eight.

Steve Watson, the club chairman, said: "We were expecting to figure in the play-offs. Now we will do well to stay out of the second division." The assistant coach, Steve Crooks, will be in charge until an appointment is made.

Ellery Hanley, the Great Britain captain and the vice-

captain, Garry Schofield, both Leeds players yesterday gave their full support to an initiative designed to lure young people away from drugs and into sport.

The campaign, the brainchild of Damian McGrath, the Leeds rugby league development officer, is also supported by the local authority.

A leaflet, "Choosing alternatives to drugs — why not try this for kicks?" will be distributed to schools and youth clubs. Hanley, Schofield and other Leeds players attended yesterday's launch of the campaign at Headingley where leaflets will be distributed before Friary's match against Halifax.

"There should be no place in rugby league or any other sport for anyone found taking performance-enhancing drugs," Schofield said. "They should be drummed out."

WHICH COMPANY CARS PERFORMED BEST IN 1992?

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America's Cup 'king' prevents Koch final

Conner refuses to abdicate without a fight

FROM BOB ROSS IN SAN DIEGO

DENNIS Conner is through to the final of the America's Cup defender selection trials — which is good news for the event and just about everyone in San Diego, including Bill Koch.

Conner's Stars & Stripes won her sail-off match against Kanza to qualify for the final against America's, which, like Kanza, is owned by Koch's syndicate. Koch had wanted to shut Conner out of the final so that he could continue to experiment with keel changes and other modifications to his yacht. But even he conceded that having Conner continue in the competition would strengthen the defence.

"I have always said, never count Dennis out," Koch said. "What will strengthen the defence is to have the two fastest boats and the two most competitive teams out there, and this race has shown that

Dennis has one of those fast boats for the San Diego conditions. I don't particularly like it, but we've got it, so having two really fast boats for these really weird conditions is good for the cup."

Stars & Stripes and Kanza had been tied at the end of the semi-final series. Stars & Stripes won, by 2min 12sec, gave Conner his chance to become America's Cup defender for the fifth time, even though his effort is short of funds and he has only one boat — and that is a year old.

Conner has since 1974 represented the United States in every America's Cup match, with the exception of 1977, when he was committed to winning the Star class world championship. He has won 17 America's Cup races and lost five, and he was in the winning US teams in 1974, 1980, 1987 and 1988, as well as in the defeat by Australia II

in 1983. Koch said: "I am extremely disappointed at what happened today. We were hoping to dethrone the king today; he is still the king and deserves to be."

Stars & Stripes took a long early lead, by 4min 9sec at the first mark, on the first windward beat, with the wind only five knots and the swells slight at 2 ft. Although Kanza, designed for stronger breezes, gained as the wind freshened slightly, to a maximum 11 knots, Stars & Stripes stayed in front.

"We got in control and worked them over to the left-hand side of the course," Conner said. "With the wind going left, there wasn't much runway left. We felt this was a day when there was more wind on the right-hand side but the wind would go to the left. It was one of those days where you have to guard the left but stay to the right of the competition while you were doing that."

Seeing Conner's need for new sails to continue competitively, his tactician, Tom Whidden, who is president of North Sails Group, said on the run to the finish: "Dennis is going to cost you big dollars." When Koch heard of this, he said: "I wish I had Dennis's luck and my money."

Koch said: "The wind today was right in his window, five to seven, eight, nine knots; it peaked at 11 knots. Kanza gets going at around ten knots. Dennis sailed a beautiful race."

RESULT: Defender trials: Semi-final sail-off Stars & Stripes (D Conner) vs Kanza (W Koch), 2min 12sec.

PATHS TO THE FINAL

Defenders

First round robin (9 races, 1st per win): Dennis (W Koch), Stars & Stripes (D Conner), 2. Jayhawk (W Koch), 3. Second round robin (9 races, 2pts per win plus accumulated placings): Dennis (W Koch), Stars & Stripes (D Conner), 2. Jayhawk (W Koch), 3. Third round robin (9 races, 4pts per win plus accumulated placings): Dennis (W Koch), Stars & Stripes (D Conner), 2. Jayhawk (W Koch), 3. Fourth round robin (9 races, 6pts per win plus accumulated placings): Dennis (W Koch), Stars & Stripes (D Conner), 2. Jayhawk (W Koch), 3. Final: Dennis (W Koch), Stars & Stripes (D Conner), 2. Jayhawk (W Koch), 3.

Challengers

First round robin (7 races, 1st per win): Kanza (W Koch), Stars & Stripes (D Conner), 2. Jayhawk (W Koch), 3. Second round robin (7 races, 2pts per win plus accumulated placings): Kanza (W Koch), Stars & Stripes (D Conner), 2. Jayhawk (W Koch), 3. Third round robin (7 races, 4pts per win plus accumulated placings): Kanza (W Koch), Stars & Stripes (D Conner), 2. Jayhawk (W Koch), 3. Fourth round robin (7 races, 6pts per win plus accumulated placings): Kanza (W Koch), Stars & Stripes (D Conner), 2. Jayhawk (W Koch), 3. Final: Kanza (W Koch), Stars & Stripes (D Conner), 2. Jayhawk (W Koch), 3.

Smith's absence raises doubts

BY BARRY PICKTHALL

LAWRIE Smith's refusal to join the match-racing finals at the Soling world championship in Cadiz two weeks ago, and at the French pre-Olympic regatta at Hyeres last weekend, has raised concern that he and his crew will not be prepared for the Olympic Games this summer.

Match-racing will decide the medal rankings in the Soling keel boat class at the Olympics for the first time, with the leading six crews from the five-race fleet racing round going through to these knockout finals.

There is no doubting Smith's potential in fleet racing and, for the moment, thinking of the Spanish jury, he and his crew would now be world champions.

They would also have won the French pre-Olympic regatta had Smith not elected to sail Glyn Charles, his closest rival for the Olympic berth, down the fleet and out of contention in the last race.

That tactic, and the chequered performance of Chris Law at Hyeres, gave Smith and his crew of Rod Cruikshank and Ossie Stewart their tickets to Barcelona without the need for a deciding match-race final.

Law is a fast-improving match-racer and Charles won the match-race finals at the Spanish pre-Olympic regatta two years ago. Both would have given Smith, who has not competed at a serious level since the 1987 America's Cup, a close run.

Explaining his decision at Hyeres, Smith said he did not want to give his medal opponents any inkling of his own defence and attacking manoeuvres. Conversely, by avoiding these early dashes, he learns nothing about theirs, either.

Rod Carr, the Britain coach, confirmed yesterday that plans are being made to sharpen Smith's team's skills against leading professional

Britons turn to the East

FROM MALCOLM MCKEAG IN HONG KONG

BRITONS dominate the entry list for the second leg of the Champagne Mumm World Cup, sailed here as the Corum China Sea Series. Unfortunately, none of them is sailing for Britain.

Most of the British are sailing for their temporary domicile, Hong Kong, and the rest have been recruited aboard yachts carrying the flags of the nine other nations represented here, including Thailand, the Philippines, Ireland, Australia and even Russia.

This year the World Cup is being sailed exclusively in the increasingly important Pacific hemisphere, and when Britain failed to send a team to Australia at the beginning of the year to defend the Southern Cross Cup, won in 1989, the British in Hong Kong saw little encouragement to race for their nation.

"I live and work in Hong Kong, I sail for Hong Kong," Henry Kaye said typically. His X-19, Lethal Weapon, is one of the favourites to win the 650-mile China Sea race and he and his crew hold British passports. Dr Ian Nicholson, whose Banner 41, Intrigue, is the present points leader in the series, would sail for Scotland were it permitted, but sees no kudos in sailing for Britain. He, like his fellow residents, now looks East for a new perspective.

Hence the arrival of the Russians, whose crew was brought in with local sponsorship support to promote developing trade links. In Hong Kong sailing, as in the rest of Hong Kong, the old order changes.

RESULTS (after two races): Overall: 1. Intrigue (Ian Nicholson, Banner 41, HK); 2. Sky Song (Neil Pryde, J35, HK); 3. Buzzard (Gordon, Humphreys 43, HK); 4. Razzia (Gordon, Humphreys 43, HK); 5. Tana (Don Walker, F40, HK); 6. Island Ping (Paul Whelan, Dufour 34, HK); 7. Country positions: 1. Hong Kong; 2. Australia; 3. Ireland.



Smith: ill prepared

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NETBALL

Surrey still supreme

SURREY completed the double for the second successive season by winning the Evian inter-county tournament at Atherley, south London, last weekend. The previous week they had secured the English Counties League title (Louise Taylor writes).

Sheila Edwards, the former England captain, has led the team throughout this successful period. At Atherley, Surrey beat Middlesex 13-11 with

Essex Metropolitan, the English Counties League runners-up, in third place.

In the under-21 section, Hertfordshire defeated Bedfordshire 14-11, with the beaten finalists being compensated by the award of the special trophy for the best defence at under-21 level. At senior standard, the premier defence award went to Middlesex, who are captained by Jesslyn Parkes.



Mystiko, last season's 2,000 Guineas winner, runs in the Earl of Sefton Stakes at Newmarket today

A-To-Z clouds classic picture

£300,000 jackpot on offer

BY RICHARD EVANS

THE Guinness picture, already clouded in uncertainty, became engulfed by an impenetrable fog at Newmarket yesterday when A-To-Z won an inconclusive Shadwell Stud Nell Gwyn Stakes.

With only three lengths covering the first seven home and the race being run three seconds below the standard time, Michael Bell's game filly will almost certainly need to improve considerably if she is to win the 1,000 Guineas on April 30.

A-to-Z, fourth to Marling in the Queen Mary Stakes last June, has benefited from a holiday operation in November to improve her breathing. After working recently with Red Slippers, she carried plenty of stable confidence.

Backed from 16-1 to 8-1, she found the extra gear her jockey, Michael Hills, always believed she possessed to outpace Perfect Circle in the final furlong.

Three-quarters of a length separated the first two home with an unlucky-in-running Solree a further neck away. Harvest Girl, consistent but hardly top class last year, was just behind in fourth, which would tend to confirm the Group 3 contest was below standard.

Midnight Air, the 9-4 favourite, was a bitter disappointment, beating only one home, having looked the pick of the pack. Despite holding a prominent position two furlongs out, the Green Dancer filly was readily outpaced inside the distance. "She has not quite come to herself and probably needs further. Time will tell," Henry Cecil said.

With uncertainties about the value of the form, bookmakers were left with no option but to shorten the price of Musical for the 1,000 Guineas. Henry Cecil's runner, who overcame adverse conditions to win the Fred Darling Stakes at Newbury last week, is a best-priced 7-2 for the fillies' classic with Victor Chandler, who then goes 6-1 Hatoof, 7-1 Marling, 10-1 Kenbu, 12-1 A-to-Z, 14-1 Perfect Circle and Solree. If Marling stays, and her trainer, Geoff Wragg, is confident she will, she looks the each-way value.

Bell, enjoying his first turf winner of the campaign, said: "We have always liked A-to-Z a lot. I am indebted to my vet, James Crowther, for finding her wind problem last year and carrying out a holiday operation which has worked wonders. She had a slight paralysis of the larynx which was restricting her oxygen intake."

"We were always hopeful she was a good filly and the wind operation has definitely improved her a stone."

Doubts about the class of the race were reinforced 90 minutes later when Beware Of Agents, partnered by Bobby Elliott, won the Chris Blackwell Memorial Handicap in a time half-a-second faster than that of A-to-Z.

Elliott, aged 51, was joined in the winner's enclosure

during the day by another veteran, Lester Piggott, aged 56, who rode an exquisite race on Fyde Flyer in the Abernant Stakes. Jack Berry intends running the winner in the Cork And Orrery Stakes at Royal Ascot.

On a day of surprises which shattered punters' chances of winning the £195,000 Tote jackpot, Pat Eddery found himself before the stewards following the defeat of Alhamad in the opening Constant Security Maiden Stakes.

The odds-on favourite led six furlongs from home, but was caught in the final 30 yards by Ilywain.

The stewards asked Eddery to explain why he appeared not to ride out Alhamad on the run to the line. They accepted the jockey's explanation that the colt was hanging badly for the final half mile of the race. Eddery had attempted to keep Alhamad straight by pulling his whip through into his left hand and "continued to ride out the colt to the line."

To make matters even harder today, the final race in the jackpot features 11 maiden fillies, nine of whom have never raced before.

Peter Niven, Mary Reveley's stable jockey, moved within two of reaching a century of winners for the first time after landing a double at Sedgfield yesterday on Perjury and Grace Card.

Englishman threatens Arazi fairy tale

CAN an archetypal Englishman living halfway round the world mastermind the downfall of the great Arazi with a horse by the unlikely name of A. P. Indy?

Neil Drysdale would be last person to say so — publicly. Despite spending 20-plus years in the Americas, the trainer now based in Pasadena, California, still retains the reserve and natural caution instilled during his upbringing in Sussex and education at Stowe.

However, American horsemen will be looking mainly to A. P. Indy to burst the Arazi bubble in the Kentucky Derby on May 2. Such an upset would represent the latest twist to racing's increasingly international kaleidoscope. A. P. Indy, the highest priced yearling of 1990, was bought by Tomonori Tsurumaki, a Japanese businessman, for \$2.9 million. Handled by Drysdale, the

Seattle Slew colt is likely to be second favourite to the "wonder horse" trained by a Frenchman and owned jointly by an American and a Dubai sheikh.

Tsurumaki loves fast cars as well as fast horses and his expensive equine purchases takes his name from AutoPols, a 70,000-seat motor racetrack, and the Indy 500.

Despite the name, A. P. Indy's horsepower has always been evident. Although beaten on his debut, he was subsequently found to be in discomfort due to a testicle which had failed to drop. An operation was carried out identical to that which transformed Selkirk into Europe's top milker last season, and the effect has been as dramatic. He has won his five subsequent starts.

Earlier this month Eddie Delahoussaye guided A. P. Indy to his most impressive success when winning the Santa Anita Derby by a length and three-quarters from Bertrand, the horse who chased Arazi home in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile last November.

Purists will point quickly to the five-length official margin (it was nearer six-and-a-half and could have been ten) enjoyed by Arazi. But Drysdale, who is a

lucky son of a horse who is never going to win a race by more than two lengths. I was surprised to see him win his last race by so far.

"In the future he won by a head, but you could see he had the measure of the other horses and Delahoussaye did not have to hit him that day."

In a land where race times

rule, A. P. Indy recorded a time on his first start of 1992 almost identical to Arazi's breathtaking performance at Churchill Downs.

Drysdale, who learned the thoroughbred business from Lucien Laurin, the trainer of Secretariat, and Charlie Whittingham, is precise in his description of the horse

and his abilities. "He's a strong colt who is developing well and improving after each race. We appear to be going into the Kentucky Derby in very good order. He settles very well. He is relaxed and then he just gradually turns up the engine."

A markedly low head carriage may look awkward from the stands and make Delahoussaye worry about topping over the horse's head but, in reality, it probably helps him extend properly when running on a dirt surface.

As to whether A. P. Indy can end the Arazi dream, his trainer is unsure. "I honestly don't know. I was very, very impressed with Arazi's reappearance. I thought it was a scintillating performance for a comeback."

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rule

Imran is back in familiar routine

BY ALAN TAYLOR
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

Cruyff calls for crowd to inspire his team

Barcelona frantic to book their place at Wembley

BY PETER ROBINSON

FOR Barcelona, the European Cup remains an elusive Holy Grail. For all the club's enormous support and extraordinary wealth, it has still failed to win the most prestigious trophy in Europe. Tonight, however, Barça can reach the final for the third time and at least bring the cup within sight of Catalonia.

The visit of Benfica to the Nou Camp stadium will decide whether or not Barcelona take their place in the final at Wembley on May 20.

The last instalment of this season's experimental round robin semi-final stage has left them needing just a draw and the point that goes with it to top semi-final group B. Victory will see them into the final in style; defeat hardly bears thinking about.

It is the biggest game the club has faced since its last appearance in the final in 1986, when Steaua Bucharest held firm to steal a win in a penalty shootout in Seville.

The pressure has been rising remorselessly and it probably contributed to Barça's tempestuous weekend visit to Valencia, when five red cards and 11 yellow were shown in

the course of their 1-0 defeat. That reverse was symptomatic of a spell of inconsistent league form and behind-the-scenes wrangles between Johan Cruyff, the club's outspoken coach, and José Luis Nuñez, its president, that have raised doubts in supporters' minds.

Indeed, so widespread are they, that yesterday Cruyff felt the need to plead with those supporters to fill the 115,000-capacity stadium and get behind his team in a strange conduct for a club that boasts as huge a following as Barcelona.

"The match is of unparalleled importance," he said. "That must be enough to bring the supporters in." His assistant, Carlos Rexach, warmed to the theme: "For a play to be a total success, the actors need to see the theatre full. This is what's got to happen on Wednesday. The crowd have to live up to the players and they the crowd."

Barcelona may need their crowd. Benfica are the side in form in the group and, if they win and Sparta Prague slip up against Dynamo Kiev (which appears unlikely), they

will play in their second final in three years.

The 1-0 defeat by AC Milan in 1990 still rankles in Lisbon. However, the absence, through suspension, of the midfield player, Jonas Thern, will worry Sven Göran Eriksson, the Benfica coach, for the Swede has, with Sergei Yuran, from Ukraine, been their outstanding figure this season.

Group A is far more clear-cut with Sampdoria — ironically the club Eriksson is set to move to next season — needing only to draw with Panathinaikos in Genoa to secure their place in the final. The loss of Viatcheslav, Bonetti and Lombardo to suspension and Cerezo, the Brazilian, to injury should not hamper the Italian champions unduly.

Their present coach, Vujadin Boskov, is certainly confident and yesterday was ready to predict the probable final: "Will it be Barcelona against Sampdoria? At the moment, I would say yes because we are both leading our groups and are playing our last games at home," he said. If Boskov is right, Sampdoria will have a score to settle. Barcelona beat them 2-0 in the final of the Cup Winners' Cup in 1989.

Red Star Belgrade, the champions, whose chance of defending their crown at Wembley all but vanished after a 3-1 defeat by the Italians a fortnight ago, will hope Sampdoria slip up while they can win at Anderlecht.

Although tension may prevail in the European Cup, the UEFA Cup should offer plenty of entertainment. In Amsterdam, Genoa are hoping to overturn a 3-2 deficit against Ajax with Oswaldo Bagnoli, their coach, ordering his players to push forward, reasoning "we have nothing to lose and all to gain".

Torino are in similarly positive mood for the second leg of their semi-final with Real Madrid. Trailing 2-1, they have a real chance of edging Real out of the final, with both Seffo and Martin Vassallo former Madrid favourites, in form.

French hopes of a first success in Europe with AS Monaco in the Cup Winners' Cup. Held to a 1-1 draw by Feyenoord in the first leg, they must travel to Rotterdam and breach one of the most miserly defences on the continent.

The probable absence of De Wolf from the Dutch lineup will help their cause no end, however. Awaiting the winners in the final will be either Bruges or Werder Bremen who meet in Germany with the Belgians defending a 1-0 lead.



Fitting reward: Paul Dixon, above, was named the young British player of the year yesterday. Dixon, aged 18, is the seventh winner of this annual award and, as usual, it means he will spend two weeks next September at the training camp of the Calgary Flames of the National Hockey League (Norman de Mesquita writes).

Dixon, born and bred in Durham, joined Humberdale Seahawks at the beginning of this season having been in the Durham organisation since he first played at the age of 11.

The highlight of his career has been being part of the Durham Wasps team that

completed the grand slam when winning the Heineken championship final at Wembley last April.

He was selected for the Great Britain Under-21 side earlier this year, but work commitments forced him to miss the trip to Italy for Pool C of the world junior championships. However, nothing will prevent his going to Calgary in September, although his selection has come as a great surprise to him.

"I did not expect it," he said, "but I am really looking forward to it. It is the chance of a lifetime to see the style of Canadians and how they play at the highest level."

Bracknell seal league place

BY NORMAN DE MESQUITA

MOST of the promotion and relegation issues decided at the weekend were negative rather than positive ones.

Humberdale Seahawks and Billingham Bombers will not be at Wembley for the Heineken championships; Streatham Redskins, Blackburn Blackhaws and Livingston Kings will not gain entry to the first division of the Heineken League.

On the other hand, Bracknell Bees, with an away win over Slough Jets and a home draw with Swindon Wildcats, ensured that they will once again be in the premier division next season.

Of the Wembley candi-

dates, Nottingham Panthers and Durham Wasps continue to look the likeliest to qualify, but the other two semi-finalists might not be known until the last quarter-final has been played, between Whitley Warriors and Cardiff Devils next Monday afternoon.

Norwich and Peterborough Pirates suffered their first play-off defeat — 11-5 at Durham — but are still likely to be at Wembley as Murrayfield Racers face a tough weekend with games against Durham and Humberdale.

Fife Flyers have been fined £2,500 by the British Ice Hockey Association after in-

cidents involving their supporters at Milton Keynes, £2,000 of which will be suspended until the end of next season pending good behaviour.

RESULTS: Heineken championship play-off: Billingham Bombers 5, Whitley Warriors 11; Humberdale Seahawks 3, Durham Wasps 10; Nottingham Panthers 7, Cardiff Devils 3; Durham Wasps 11, Norwich and Peterborough Pirates 5; Murrayfield Racers 5, Humberdale Seahawks 3; Whitley Warriors 9, Nottingham Panthers 6; Bracknell Bees 7, Swindon Wildcats 10; Streatham Redskins 10, Chesham Chieftains 10; Chesham Chieftains 10, Chesham Chieftains 10; Chesham Chieftains 10, Chesham Chieftains 10.

SPORTS POLITICS

US Olympic body shudders under two controversies

FROM DAVID MILLER IN ATLANTA, GEORGIA

THE United States Olympic Committee (USOC), dismayed by the enforced resignation last December of Robert Helmick, its president and an IOC vice-president, has suffered two further controversies within two individual federations — athletics and softball.

Softball is a "recognised" sport that is popular in America and attempting to gain Olympic entry. The Amateur Softball Association (ASA) was found to have withheld money granted to it by the USOC on request for specific programmes.

Olan Cassell, the executive director of the TAC, the national athletics body, since its foundation in 1978, survived a vote of confidence at the weekend by only one vote.

The TAC, holding a secret ballot on whether to exercise the option to renew Cassell's contract, which expires next March, decided by ten votes to nine to delay the decision. There were two members of the executive committee absent who might have turned the decision the other way.

Those pressing for termination of Cassell's contract consider that he has been autocratic and secretive, has lacked vision to carry the TAC through to the centenary Games to be staged here in four years' time and that he

has failed to generate enthusiasm about sponsors, notably Nike.

The matter will be put to the vote again at the TAC meeting in New Orleans at the time of the Olympic trials in June.

Cassell is said to have been telling his colleagues before the vote that he wished to remain another year, in order "to become the next IOC member for the United States".

Insider information suggests that this is the remotest possibility.

The Softball Association is having to return \$115,000 in grants, including \$20,000 for specific payment to creditors, that had been requested and not used.

As a consequence, Don Porter, the executive director of the ASA, has resigned from the Essex Committee of USOC established by William Hybl, following the Helmick scandal.

Porter says, none the less: "I do not feel that ASA was negligent in any way."

But Frank Taylor, the head of the ASA finance committee, said: "I think we lied — we took \$20,000 and never gave it to anybody."

Harvey Schiller, the USOC's executive director, is to appoint an auditor to monitor grants to federations.

BOXING

Williams shapes up well for Lewis

BY SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT

DEREK Williams, the Commonwealth heavyweight champion, who has been spending the last six weeks at Angelo Dundee's finishing school, is shaping up well for his triple championship with Lennox Lewis on April 30, but Dundee was unable to say if his charge had picked up enough to relieve Lewis of the British and European titles.

Dundee, speaking to journalists yesterday from Miami said: "The trouble is he is inexperienced, having only ten amateur fights. It takes time to get everything together. I am not trying to change his style. I am just getting the best he's got out of him, doing what I feel is the best way to offset Lennox Lewis, making him believe in himself."

"He's got talent and I am working on a few moves. There are things the kid's got that he thought he never had. He's not so rigid, he's jabbing well and I've got him moving."

Teaching Williams move could prove easier than

putting steel in his heart. His manager, Frank Warren, said: "I sent Williams to Dundee to motivate him. Angelo is the greatest motivator. Williams will need a little jockeying."

But Dundee realises he will have to do more than simply scrub him along on the night. "I have worked with underdogs before and he's capable of causing an upset. But I am bringing my shillelagh along," Dundee said. "And if necessary I will use it. But you know a trainer is only as good as the guy on the stool."

A new prospect, Hussain Shah, of Pakistan, has joined the exciting British super-middleweight ranks. He is the first Pakistani to have turned professional in Britain and will make his debut on the Lewis-Williams bill.

Shah, aged 28, won 95 of his hundred amateur bouts, a bronze medal in the Seoul Olympic Games and a gold in the President Cup in Bangkok. He was introduced to the Lewis team by Jahangir Khan, the squash rackets champion.

Little transforms Leicester's aims

BY LOUISE TAYLOR

WHILE Blackburn Rovers and Derby County have invested millions in the hope of purchasing a Premier League place, Leicester City are in profit on transfer market dealings this year.

Despite having sold Paul Kinson to Derby for £1.3 million, Brian Little's side has improved to the point where most rivals are tipping into dash the promotion hopes of Middlesbrough, Cambridge United and Blackburn by joining Ipswich Town in avoiding the play-offs.

Such suggestions can be reinforced with a win at home to Tranmere Rovers tonight when Filbert Street is expected to attract a crowd of close on 20,000. A year ago those supporters were fearing relegation to the third division, but Little's arrival from Darlington in the summer has prompted a remarkable transformation.

As Denis Smith, the Bristol City manager, said: "Brian has turned Leicester into a hard, disciplined, organised and resilient side. I think they will be promoted this season."

Little's secret is that he has got Leicester playing as a team. The loss of Tony James, their best defender with a broken leg earlier in the sea-

son, could have removed any Premier League hopes but his absence has been overcome.

The best has been brought out of players like Gary Mills and David Oldfield, a revelation since his move from attack to midfield.

Little has Leicester playing a more direct, no nonsense brand of football than that practised under David Plead, his predecessor. If they go up it will be a tribute not only to Little's tactical know-how and transfer market acumen, but, above all, to his man management.

Middlesbrough could yet earn automatic promotion but after Monday night's scheduled 1-0 defeat at home to Barnsley, only their second of the season in the League at Ayresome Park, nothing less than victory will do on Tyneside against an Oxford United side who stand a strong chance of escaping the relegation zone.

Their fellow demolition contenders, Brighton, need to beat Derby County at the Goldstone Ground, where County want three points for the opposite reason. Port Vale's cause could look hopeless should they be sunk by Southend United at Roots Hall.

Davies set for Neath

Leighton Davies, the former Maesteg coach, is ready to take over when Glen Ball steps down as team manager of Neath, last season's Heineken League rugby champions, next month.

Davies, who resigned as coach at the first division strugglers, Maesteg, last month after a dispute with the committee, said: "I have been talking to Neath and I have been linked with the club."

Gomer injured

Tennis: Sara Gomer was forced to retire with an arm injury from the women's final in the LTA British tour tournament at Sunderland, while leading a fellow-Devon player, Valda Lake, 6-5 in the first set.

Ban lifted

Athletics: A four-year ban on the American athlete, Delisa Floyd, for alleged doping at the Tokyo world championships in 1991, has been lifted.

Ashley defends

Boxing: Crawford Ashley, the British light-heavyweight champion, defends against Glaz Campbell, the southern area holder, in Belfast on April 25.

Lejarreta retires

Cycling: Marino Lejarreta, of Spain, has been forced to retire from the sport because of injuries sustained in a crash during a race at the weekend.

FOR THE RECORD											
FOOTBALL				BADMINTON				GOLF			
GM VAUXHALL CONFERENCE: Post-poned: Farnborough v Merit, waterlogged pitch.				GLASGOW: Pilkington Glass European Championship: Group 1: Sub-Group A: Denmark 3-0, Denmark 3-0, Denmark 3-0, Denmark 3-0.				WEST HILL: Father and Sons Four-ball: 1st round: 1. D. White (North) 1-0, 2. D. White (North) 1-0, 3. D. White (North) 1-0, 4. D. White (North) 1-0.			
BRAXFORD: CHAMPIONSHIP: Birmingham 2, Gales 0; International 1, Athletic 1; Post-poned: 1. Athletic 1, Athletic 1, Athletic 1, Athletic 1.				Sub-Group B: Sweden 3-0, Denmark 3-0, Denmark 3-0, Denmark 3-0.				1st round: 1. D. White (North) 1-0, 2. D. White (North) 1-0, 3. D. White (North) 1-0, 4. D. White (North) 1-0.			
Sub-Group C: Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0.				Sub-Group D: Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0.				2nd round: 1. D. White (North) 1-0, 2. D. White (North) 1-0, 3. D. White (North) 1-0, 4. D. White (North) 1-0.			
Sub-Group E: Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0.				Sub-Group F: Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0.				3rd round: 1. D. White (North) 1-0, 2. D. White (North) 1-0, 3. D. White (North) 1-0, 4. D. White (North) 1-0.			
Sub-Group G: Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0.				Sub-Group H: Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0.				4th round: 1. D. White (North) 1-0, 2. D. White (North) 1-0, 3. D. White (North) 1-0, 4. D. White (North) 1-0.			
Sub-Group I: Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0.				Sub-Group J: Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0.				5th round: 1. D. White (North) 1-0, 2. D. White (North) 1-0, 3. D. White (North) 1-0, 4. D. White (North) 1-0.			
Sub-Group K: Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0.				Sub-Group L: Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0.				6th round: 1. D. White (North) 1-0, 2. D. White (North) 1-0, 3. D. White (North) 1-0, 4. D. White (North) 1-0.			
Sub-Group M: Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0.				Sub-Group N: Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0.				7th round: 1. D. White (North) 1-0, 2. D. White (North) 1-0, 3. D. White (North) 1-0, 4. D. White (North) 1-0.			
Sub-Group O: Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0.				Sub-Group P: Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0.				8th round: 1. D. White (North) 1-0, 2. D. White (North) 1-0, 3. D. White (North) 1-0, 4. D. White (North) 1-0.			
Sub-Group Q: Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0.				Sub-Group R: Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0.				9th round: 1. D. White (North) 1-0, 2. D. White (North) 1-0, 3. D. White (North) 1-0, 4. D. White (North) 1-0.			
Sub-Group S: Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0.				Sub-Group T: Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0.				10th round: 1. D. White (North) 1-0, 2. D. White (North) 1-0, 3. D. White (North) 1-0, 4. D. White (North) 1-0.			
Sub-Group U: Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0.				Sub-Group V: Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0.				11th round: 1. D. White (North) 1-0, 2. D. White (North) 1-0, 3. D. White (North) 1-0, 4. D. White (North) 1-0.			
Sub-Group W: Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0.				Sub-Group X: Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0.				12th round: 1. D. White (North) 1-0, 2. D. White (North) 1-0, 3. D. White (North) 1-0, 4. D. White (North) 1-0.			
Sub-Group Y: Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0.				Sub-Group Z: Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0.				13th round: 1. D. White (North) 1-0, 2. D. White (North) 1-0, 3. D. White (North) 1-0, 4. D. White (North) 1-0.			
Sub-Group AA: Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0.				Sub-Group AB: Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0.				14th round: 1. D. White (North) 1-0, 2. D. White (North) 1-0, 3. D. White (North) 1-0, 4. D. White (North) 1-0.			
Sub-Group AC: Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0.				Sub-Group AD: Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0.				15th round: 1. D. White (North) 1-0, 2. D. White (North) 1-0, 3. D. White (North) 1-0, 4. D. White (North) 1-0.			
Sub-Group AE: Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0.				Sub-Group AF: Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0.				16th round: 1. D. White (North) 1-0, 2. D. White (North) 1-0, 3. D. White (North) 1-0, 4. D. White (North) 1-0.			
Sub-Group AG: Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0.				Sub-Group AH: Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0.				17th round: 1. D. White (North) 1-0, 2. D. White (North) 1-0, 3. D. White (North) 1-0, 4. D. White (North) 1-0.			
Sub-Group AI: Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0.				Sub-Group AJ: Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0.				18th round: 1. D. White (North) 1-0, 2. D. White (North) 1-0, 3. D. White (North) 1-0, 4. D. White (North) 1-0.			
Sub-Group AK: Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0.				Sub-Group AL: Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0.				19th round: 1. D. White (North) 1-0, 2. D. White (North) 1-0, 3. D. White (North) 1-0, 4. D. White (North) 1-0.			
Sub-Group AM: Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0.				Sub-Group AN: Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0.				20th round: 1. D. White (North) 1-0, 2. D. White (North) 1-0, 3. D. White (North) 1-0, 4. D. White (North) 1-0.			
Sub-Group AO: Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0.				Sub-Group AP: Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0.				21st round: 1. D. White (North) 1-0, 2. D. White (North) 1-0, 3. D. White (North) 1-0, 4. D. White (North) 1-0.			
Sub-Group AQ: Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0.				Sub-Group AR: Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0.				22nd round: 1. D. White (North) 1-0, 2. D. White (North) 1-0, 3. D. White (North) 1-0, 4. D. White (North) 1-0.			
Sub-Group AS: Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0.				Sub-Group AT: Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0.				23rd round: 1. D. White (North) 1-0, 2. D. White (North) 1-0, 3. D. White (North) 1-0, 4. D. White (North) 1-0.			
Sub-Group AU: Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0.				Sub-Group AV: Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0.				24th round: 1. D. White (North) 1-0, 2. D. White (North) 1-0, 3. D. White (North) 1-0, 4. D. White (North) 1-0.			
Sub-Group AW: Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0.				Sub-Group AX: Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0.				25th round: 1. D. White (North) 1-0, 2. D. White (North) 1-0, 3. D. White (North) 1-0, 4. D. White (North) 1-0.			
Sub-Group AY: Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0.				Sub-Group AZ: Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0.				26th round: 1. D. White (North) 1-0, 2. D. White (North) 1-0, 3. D. White (North) 1-0, 4. D. White (North) 1-0.			
Sub-Group BA: Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0.				Sub-Group BB: Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0.				27th round: 1. D. White (North) 1-0, 2. D. White (North) 1-0, 3. D. White (North) 1-0, 4. D. White (North) 1-0.			
Sub-Group BC: Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0.				Sub-Group BD: Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0.				28th round: 1. D. White (North) 1-0, 2. D. White (North) 1-0, 3. D. White (North) 1-0, 4. D. White (North) 1-0.			
Sub-Group BE: Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0.				Sub-Group BF: Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0.				29th round: 1. D. White (North) 1-0, 2. D. White (North) 1-0, 3. D. White (North) 1-0, 4. D. White (North) 1-0.			
Sub-Group BG: Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0.				Sub-Group BH: Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0.				30th round: 1. D. White (North) 1-0, 2. D. White (North) 1-0, 3. D. White (North) 1-0, 4. D. White (North) 1-0.			
Sub-Group BI: Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0.				Sub-Group BJ: Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0.				31st round: 1. D. White (North) 1-0, 2. D. White (North) 1-0, 3. D. White (North) 1-0, 4. D. White (North) 1-0.			
Sub-Group BK: Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0.				Sub-Group BL: Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0.				32nd round: 1. D. White (North) 1-0, 2. D. White (North) 1-0, 3. D. White (North) 1-0, 4. D. White (North) 1-0.			
Sub-Group BM: Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0.				Sub-Group BN: Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0.				33rd round: 1. D. White (North) 1-0, 2. D. White (North) 1-0, 3. D. White (North) 1-0, 4. D. White (North) 1-0.			
Sub-Group BO: Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0.				Sub-Group BP: Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0.				34th round: 1. D. White (North) 1-0, 2. D. White (North) 1-0, 3. D. White (North) 1-0, 4. D. White (North) 1-0.			
Sub-Group BQ: Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0.				Sub-Group BR: Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0.				35th round: 1. D. White (North) 1-0, 2. D. White (North) 1-0, 3. D. White (North) 1-0, 4. D. White (North) 1-0.			
Sub-Group BS: Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0.				Sub-Group BT: Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0.				36th round: 1. D. White (North) 1-0, 2. D. White (North) 1-0, 3. D. White (North) 1-0, 4. D. White (North) 1-0.			
Sub-Group BU: Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0.				Sub-Group BV: Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0.				37th round: 1. D. White (North) 1-0, 2. D. White (North) 1-0, 3. D. White (North) 1-0, 4. D. White (North) 1-0.			
Sub-Group BW: Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0.				Sub-Group BX: Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0.				38th round: 1. D. White (North) 1-0, 2. D. White (North) 1-0, 3. D. White (North) 1-0, 4. D. White (North) 1-0.			
Sub-Group BY: Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0.				Sub-Group BZ: Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0.				39th round: 1. D. White (North) 1-0, 2. D. White (North) 1-0, 3. D. White (North) 1-0, 4. D. White (North) 1-0.			
Sub-Group CA: Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0.				Sub-Group CB: Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0.				40th round: 1. D. White (North) 1-0, 2. D. White (North) 1-0, 3. D. White (North) 1-0, 4. D. White (North) 1-0.			
Sub-Group CC: Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0.				Sub-Group CD: Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0.				41st round: 1. D. White (North) 1-0, 2. D. White (North) 1-0, 3. D. White (North) 1-0, 4. D. White (North) 1-0.			
Sub-Group CE: Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0.				Sub-Group CF: Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0.				42nd round: 1. D. White (North) 1-0, 2. D. White (North) 1-0, 3. D. White (North) 1-0, 4. D. White (North) 1-0.			
Sub-Group CG: Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0.				Sub-Group CH: Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0.				43rd round: 1. D. White (North) 1-0, 2. D. White (North) 1-0, 3. D. White (North) 1-0, 4. D. White (North) 1-0.			
Sub-Group CI: Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0.				Sub-Group CJ: Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0.				44th round: 1. D. White (North) 1-0, 2. D. White (North) 1-0, 3. D. White (North) 1-0, 4. D. White (North) 1-0.			
Sub-Group CK: Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0.				Sub-Group CL: Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0.				45th round: 1. D. White (North) 1-0, 2. D. White (North) 1-0, 3. D. White (North) 1-0, 4. D. White (North) 1-0.			
Sub-Group CM: Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0.				Sub-Group CN: Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0.				46th round: 1. D. White (North) 1-0, 2. D. White (North) 1-0, 3. D. White (North) 1-0, 4. D. White (North) 1-0.			
Sub-Group CO: Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0.				Sub-Group CP: Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford 3-0, Duxford							

Football authorities look for alternatives

Fifa takes steps to resolve penalty problem

By Stuart Jones, Football Correspondent

FOOTBALL is ready to end the nonsense of the penalty shoot-out. That will be of no consolation to Portsmouth, after their FA Cup semi-final defeat by Liverpool on penalties, but Fifa is taking steps to review the controversial law.

The world's governing body will be advised to examine sudden death as a fairer means of ending cup replays in extra time.

In response to complaints submitted after the World Cup in Italy in 1990, when England suffered the same cruel fate as did Portsmouth in Monday night's FA Cup semi-final replay, Fifa formed a task force.

Its specific duty was to study ways in which the game might be improved.

The group, known as FIFA 2000 met in Zurich last month and agreed that they should recommend the alternative method.

The prime mover behind the proposal was Michel Platini, the France manager who experienced the pain of losing a World Cup semi-final on penalties when he was the captain in 1982.

Graham Kelly, the Football Association's chief executive,

and a fellow member of Fifa 2000, supports the principle especially after seeing for himself Liverpool's hollow victory at Villa Park.

Yet he is not convinced that sudden death, with all its inherent logistical difficulties, would be either practical or necessarily more authentic.

"They were all so tired last night that I'm not sure they would have scored by midnight," he said yesterday.

At least neither side could be accused of playing for penalties as was the case in last season's miserably negative European Cup final between Red Star Belgrade, the winners eventually on penalties, and Marseille.

"Some coaches play for a draw and hope to nick it on penalties," Kelly said.

"One of the reasons for sudden death would be to make teams play until they do score but it might not prove as simple as that. People might miss the last bus home."

The shoot-out may not be ideal but it is probably the best system devised so far. People come up with all sorts of ideas, such as counting the number of corners, but that is artificial. Penalties are at

least part of the game and not just a statistic.

"It would have made no difference on Monday anyway, both Liverpool and Portsmouth gained seven corners. Even if bookings and dismissals had been taken into account, as in the recent rugby union World Cup, the balance would still have been even. No names were taken at Villa Park."

"I have every sympathy with Portsmouth," Kelly said. "There has to be a loser but we have to find a way of ending matches somehow."

Portsmouth, though, will rue the timing of the general election, which effectively denied them another chance.

The replay, originally scheduled for last Wednesday, was postponed because the West Midlands police insisted that they would be unable to provide adequate security on the even of the national poll.

Although penalties were introduced this season — to the cost earlier in the competition of Scunthorpe United, Colchester United, Newcastle United and Manchester United — the directive covered the first round up to and including the quarter-final.

"There are so many bits and pieces to be put in place before the final that we need an outcome sooner rather than later," an FA spokesman said.

The FA, who must comply with the wishes of the local police, could not find sufficient room for a third match. Fixture congestion thus favoured Liverpool, who won the European Cup on penalties in Rome eight years ago.

Their comparatively experienced nerves held again but should the final against Sunderland on May 9 and the replay be equally indecisive, they will once more have to endure football's version of Russian roulette.

Fifa's machinery grinds so slowly that next season's FA Cup will feature the same dreaded finishes. For the rule to be changed, the proposal must be approved first by the governing body's executive committee and then by the international board, which is unlikely to discuss the matter until May next year.

Even if the FA was tempted to experiment with a new system, it could not legitimately do so. Permission must be granted by Fifa before any domestic cup-tie can be decided other than by the accepted means, by either replays or penalties.

"We were reluctant to bring in penalties," Kelly said. "But I don't see that changing in the immediate future. We could go back to unlimited replays next season but, in the present climate of manpower, general co-operation with the police and costs, that is unlikely."

More football, page 31
Wembley view, page 27

Final replay could go to penalties

LIVERPOOL and Sunderland will have four hours to resolve their FA Cup final or face a penalty shoot-out. Football Association officials will back the controversial system to settle the season's Wembley showpiece if the clubs are still deadlocked after extra-time in the first replay on May 14.

This decision, to be confirmed today, comes despite the criticism following the debatable manner of Portsmouth's exit in the penalty shoot-out at the end of Monday's semi-final replay at Villa Park. The FA has been prepared to employ a penalty shoot-out after one replay at previous finals.

England's involvement in this summer's European championship finals in Sweden ruled out any likelihood of the Cup Final going to a third game. FA officials blame "fixture congestion" for the decision.

Under Fifa rules, penalties are the only acceptable alternative to unlimited replays. "Penalties are a football skill and you know you will have an outcome," the FA spokesman, David Bloomfield, said. "At least we have one replay and a total of four hours to divide the teams whereas World Cup and European games have penalties after extra-time in the first match."

A Lesson with Leadbetter competition

Win a weekend for two in Orlando, Florida and receive personal one-to-one instruction from David Leadbetter. Fifty videos will be given away as runners-up prizes.

Watch out for questions three and four in The Times this Friday and Saturday.

Question 1:
Which of David's pupils does he refer to as 'my best advertisement'?

Question 2:
In which year did Leadbetter's famous Scottish pupil win the coveted 'Green Jacket'?



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all good video stockists.

Another losing Borg comeback

By Our Sports Staff

Nice: Olivier Delaire, of France, defeated Bjorn Borg 7-5, 6-2 yesterday, stopping the Swede's latest comeback to the professional tennis circuit at the Nice Open. In a first-round match filled with unforced errors, Delaire, ranked 43rd in the world, controlled the action and pace of the 78-minute match.

Borg was wearing his trademark headband but as soon as play started it was apparent that it was not the Borg of old. His serves lacked depth and the only points he seemed to win came on unforced errors by Delaire.

The Frenchman's mistakes helped Borg get back from a rapid 3-0 deficit. Delaire made nine of 12 blunders to give Borg three consecutive games and tie the score at 3-3.

However, Delaire pounced on any short ball and approached the net to put away

easy winners. He took the first set in 49 minutes, breaking Borg at love in the twelfth game. The second set went quickly. Delaire taking the final four games.

Borg previously attempted comebacks in 1982, 1983, 1984 and 1991. All were short-lived. Delaire is the No. 2 French player behind Guy Forget. A good clay-court player, Delaire made two tournament finals late in 1991, losing to top ten players, Pete Sampras and Forget.

Borg won here in 1977 and 1980. This time he prepared himself with a new, modern graphite racket and weeks of preparation at Nick Bollettieri's academy. Last year Borg made a feeble return seeking to rekindle past glories with his old wooden racket and aided by a 79-year-old Welshman that Borg called "The Professor".

Borg came back with talk of entering grand slam tournaments, lost severely to Jordi

Arrese in 75 minutes at Monte Carlo, and left the scene. He has returned with a different attitude. He said another loss won't bother him. "I'm missing match play. To be in a grand slam tournament you need to have 100 percent confidence," Borg said when he was training in Florida.

"I'll take it one step at a time. We will see what happens."



Borg: lacking power

will. Graveney has the unique task, though he will call it the honour, of welding together a disparate gathering of aspirants and itinerants.

He does not understate the problems, of which constant scrutiny is one, but neither does he labour them. A man who has been through Graveney's experiences, these past five years, will never make a drama out of a challenge. "I have learned already that the people of Durham will tell you if they don't like what you are doing. I don't mind that. It's better than being stabbed in the back."

Dismissed, callously, as Gloucestershire's captain, and then attacked for his role as manager of the last unsanctioned tour to South Africa, Graveney looks back without rancour or regrets.

"If I had my time again, the only thing I would do differently would be to leave Gloucestershire earlier than I did," he says. "I was in a no-win situation and in danger of giving up the game as a disillusioned man."

"Instead, so much has happened to me recently that I still feel I am just past 30," he adds. In fact, he is 39. His troublesome back patched up for another year of wheeling and spinning on a venture in which all of cricket must wish him success.

Of Durham's 22 contracted players, twenty were at Oxford yesterday. Missing were the youngest, Paul Henderson, training at Lilleshall with England under-17s, and the most famous, Ian Botham, still sunning himself in South Africa. Henderson is Durham's future; Botham helps give them an exciting present. It starts in earnest on Sunday.

Durham feature, page 30
Imran, page 30

First-class launch: Parker, left, and Glendenen had put together a partnership of 119 for Durham at Oxford when rain prevented play after lunch. Photograph: Hugh Routledge. Report, page 30

A chilly start for Durham

By Alan Lee, Cricket Correspondent

THERE will be bigger days and header occasions for Durham, starting this weekend with a Sunday League game which is all-ticket and televised. But yesterday was the history was made. For 71 years, there has been a closed shop of 17 first-class counties. Now, the 18th is up and running.

As history goes, it passed with a whisper rather than a roar, but then in Oxford's Parks, on a bitter April day, it was always likely to be so.

There were a few dozen curious witnesses among a gaggle of photographers and television crews. Some of the players looked bashful, some looked proud; all looked frozen stiff. Chris Scott wore a bobble-hat and Dean Jones, having organised an interesting session in an incongruous sun-visor, donned several track suits and enquired if cricket was ever played in lower temperatures.

Mugs of tea were served during a morning drinks break and when rain ended play at lunchtime, Durham 119 without loss, nobody much minded. The birth had

been recorded. As they had warmed up, or tried to, under the strictures of their physiotherapist, Sheila Job, the Durham squad made an odd mix of the anonymous and the comfortably familiar.

The latter group included Wayne Larkins and Phil Bainbridge, 35 years of county cricket between them and now with the grey hair to show it, and Paul Parker, fretting over a back injury but still running faster than anyone else.

All three have had captaincy experience and will offer a well of wisdom, into which David Graveney will dip at

Tribute to Surridge

A TRIBUTE to Stuart Surridge, the former captain of Surrey county cricket club, who died aged 74 on Monday, came yesterday from Peter May, who took over from Surridge in 1957 after Surrey had won the county championship in each of the five years of Surridge's captaincy.

"The news came as a terrible shock," May, who went on

to captain England, said. "I will miss him very much."

"He was a great captain and an inspiring man to play under. He was a great man and friend off the field, too, and was godfather to one of my daughters."

"Those times will always hold wonderful memories for me. His death is a sad loss."

Obituary, page 15

Upset by Syed in team effort

By Richard Eaton

ENGLAND reached the final of the European table tennis championships with an excellent 4-2 victory over France in Stuttgart yesterday. Against Sweden, the world champions, today they are ensured of at least a repeat of the silver medal they earned against the Swedes in the 1988 final.

The victory was achieved despite a magnificent performance from Jean-Philippe Gatien, the French No. 1 and English Open champion, and largely because of an all-round effort by the four English players.

Carl Prean, the England No. 1, and Chen Xinhua, the English national champion, both won singles, as expected; Alan Cooke played an important role in a surprise victory in the doubles; and Matthew Syed, whose splendid defensive efforts have been a plus in these championships, scored another fine win.

Syed beat Didier Mommenissin, the former French national champion, 21-10, 21-13. Another surprise was that Gatien, who finds backspin and float difficult to attack, was able to beat Chen, who had won their four previous meetings. The Frenchman did so only by 21-14, 18-21, 21-19 after trailing in the final game by 9-15 and 13-17.

"I think Gatien played one of the best matches I have ever seen him play," Donald Parker, the England manager, said.

In today's final the Swedes will field Jorgen Persson, the world champion, and Jan-Ove Waldner, a former world champion, two truly great players.

England only lost by 5-3 in the 1988 final, by 3-2 in the World Team Cup last November, and by 4-3 in their group match on Monday.

"I was extremely pleased with the way we played today," Parker said. "I am sure that if we play our best we can give Sweden some trouble again."

Results, page 31

Hall's loss hurts England

ENGLAND'S medal prospects suffered a severe blow when Darren Hall, who won a silver last time and a gold the time before, announced yesterday that he would take no part in this week's Pilkington Glass European badminton championships in Glasgow because of a recurrence of his ankle injury (Richard Eaton writes).

As if to underline the setback, England put up a sufficiently sturdy performance in a 3-2 loss to Sweden to believe that with the country's No. 1, they might well have won and, in the process, a team silver medal for the first time since 1986. Instead they were left with a battle for a bronze with the CIS and thoughts of what might have been.

Cup final allocation irks Sunderland

By Louise Taylor

SUNDERLAND have been allocated 18,000 tickets for football's FA Cup final on May 9, as opposed to the 26,000 awarded to Liverpool. The remainder of the 80,000 crowd at Wembley will be made up from allocations to clubs, county associations, and overseas football associations.

David Bloomfield, the FA's press officer, said that the 44,000 tickets available for the finalists were divided on the basis of their average crowds over the past three seasons, but the decision has not pleased Sunderland.

They are further disappointed at having lost the loss of a coin at FA headquarters in London yesterday, which means they must play in their away strip. If there is a replay, Sunderland will be allowed to don their traditional

al red and white stripes, with Liverpool changing.

Luton Town yesterday assured Bedfordshire County Council they would pay £250,000 in police bills at the season's end. David Kuhler, the club's managing director, said: "The only way this club can pay its bills is to sell players."

"We could have sold Mark Pemberton to Derby County on transfer-deadline day, but he can help keep us in the first division. We will have a play-off sale in the summer — and Bedfordshire County Council know they are going to get paid."

Had agreement not been reached, the police could have refused to man Kenilworth Road, forcing Luton to be closed.

★ 1X



CHARITIES
Helpers worth
billions that
struggle for
funds



LIFE & TIMES

WEDNESDAY APRIL 15 1992

MODERN TIMES

Is it time
for women's
erotic
magazines?



Upset by
Syed
in team
effort

Peter Barnard
reports on
Monday's charity
rock concert at
Wembley, where
raising awareness
of Aids is as high
on the agenda as
raising funds

On June 11, 1988, a young singer-songwriter appeared at Wembley stadium in the charity concert for Nelson Mandela, which was televised around the world. The singer, an American, had been enjoying marginally more success in Britain than in her native country but she was still largely unknown. Twenty-one days later, on July 2, the singer became a household name. She had an album at number one in Britain and "Fast Car", a single taken from the album, was at number five. A month later, in August, the album reached number one in the United States (where the concert had been shown live) and "Fast Car" was at number 20. Tracey Chapman had arrived.

There is a cynical view that charity concerts do as much good for the performers as for the charities. That is not true, but it contains a grain of truth. Tracey Chapman's career would have taken off at some point but there is no doubting that some acts have caused to be grateful, after the event, for the enormous selling power of charity rock shows, a phenomenon which has recently achieved the status of a durable fashion.

Easter Monday will see the biggest manifestation of this fashion since, and perhaps including, Live Aid in 1985. Wembley Stadium is again the venue and the concert, in memory of Freddie Mercury, the Aids victim and lead singer of Queen, will raise countless millions of pounds for Aids charities.

Ironically, the power of these events to sell records and raise money is also illustrated in the career of Queen. The band had released a "greatest hits" album in 1981 which sped to the top of the charts and was still in the lower reaches of the top 100 by the time of Live Aid. At that concert, Queen and Mercury played a set of stunning intensity, the performance of the night. Within days the greatest hits album was back in the higher reaches of the charts and was to stay there for two years.

Monday's Wembley event is a concert whose bill looks as if it has been taken from a rock *Who's Who*: Queen, David Bowie, Roger Daltrey, Def Leppard, Guns 'n' Roses, Elton John, Annie Lennox, George Michael, Mick Ronson, Seal, Spinal Tap, Lisa Stansfield, Paul Young and a satellite appearance by U2... the list goes on. The complication of that list indicates the sophistication of rock charity productions. Charities have learned that a mix of styles is vital, hence everything from heavy metal to ballads, young chart stars to middle-aged superstars. And if big names are so willing to do this kind of work for nothing but their hotel and travelling expenses, how do the unknowns get on to these bills. Zucchero? Who he?



Platform to greater things: Tracey Chapman, left, gained new recognition performing at the concert for Nelson Mandela in 1988, and Freddie Mercury, right, at the Live Aid extravaganza in 1985

A huge success in Italy, but unknown almost everywhere else. Zucchero is on the Wembley bill as a means of tempting the Italian television networks, in which aim it has succeeded. Italy is one of more than 70 countries taking the television feed, either live or for broadcast within 24 hours. The final worldwide television audience is estimated at half a billion.

Harvey Goldsmith is promoting Monday's spectacular but there is another, less well-known key player. He is Kevin Wall, 40-year-old president of Radio Vision, which claims to have 80 per cent of the world business in marketing concerts for television. The Mercury concert has involved most of Radio Vision's 20 staff working full time on the project for three months.

Mr Wall operates from an office building on Hollywood Boulevard in Los Angeles, directly opposite Grauman's Chinese Theatre. This is where the real success of a charity concert is planned and measured. "Usually these projects start with a charity organisation coming to us," says Mr Wall, whose company handled part of Live Aid and has negotiated television deals for Amnesty International. "In this case Queen Productions contacted us. My first question is to do with the purpose: is it to raise money or to raise awareness, or both? With this concert it's both."

"So I have to strike a balance between revenue and exposure. Fox TV is taking the show in America and there are other, smaller pay-TV networks. They will pay around \$250,000 (£141,000) and whereas Radio Vision would normally take 25 per cent, with a charity we take perhaps 10 to 15 per cent, to cover costs. We do it as cheaply as possible without killing ourselves as a company."

"It's roughly true to say that you

have 35 or so countries where selling the television rights makes money for the charities and beyond that you are breaking even, but of course in those places raising Aids awareness is the key benefit."

Whereas big markets like the US, Britain the BBC is showing Monday's concert live) and Japan pay well, others pay very little or nothing. Eastern European countries, such as Bulgaria, Poland and Czechoslovakia, have little money, in some cases not enough to cover the cost of a satellite link. But the chance to reach big populations means that the organisers will pay for links out of other income. The most dramatic illustration of the balance between money and awareness is Russia, which will take Monday's concert. Russia has no money; what it does have is 100 million people with television sets.

The bottom line purpose of the Wembley event, as opposed to its televising and marketing opportunities, is at least to have ticket sales pay for the production costs of the concert. Monday's show sold out in six hours. Those costs include everything from the stars' hotel rooms to sub-contractors handling lighting, sound, seating, security and myriad other functions, most of which are carried out at cost.

There are vital, if half hidden, benefits from television. Within the countries which take the show, television companies are encouraged to set up domestic credit card

holdings so that people can contribute to their own Aids charities while the concert is on screen. And television companies often contribute the profits from commercials, or advertisers pay airtime fees direct to charities rather than to the television company.

In one respect the relationship between rock music and Aids charities is an uneasy one. For all the publicity about Aids victims within the industry, rock's image is still rooted in the macho, heterosexual ethos that helped launch Elvis Presley, Buddy Holly, Eddie Cochran and other icons in the mid-1950s. The recent libel case won by Jason Donovan was in part a demonstration that rock's morals are still essentially conservative. Items of female underwear tossed from the front rows to the feet of male singers signify that this is still a world in which men are men and many women are, if not grateful, then at least willing participants in a symbiotic relationship which stars jeopardise at their peril.

Most big names have until recently been notable for their absence from Aids campaigning, at least overtly. A few, including Elton John and George Michael, have supported Aids fund-raising for a number of years and Aids charities talk of their "courage" in doing so. Only since the late 1980s, when Aids began to be perceived as a heterosexual problem, has the rock industry begun casting aside its

image obsessions and started to make Aids campaigning the centre-stage cause that it is now.

Even Queen have not been notably associated with the cause before and Mercury's affliction became public knowledge only in the days just before his death. Clearly Queen were too big to need fear a backlash over Aids and there was no reason for Mercury to make a private matter public before he died. But rock as a whole was for a long time reluctant to take the stage against Aids with anything like the enthusiasm it demonstrated over hunger.

Nor are a few phone calls and the rental of a stadium any guarantee that the fans will roll up to help the cause. More than one Aids charity has caught a cold by trying to organise rock events itself, hence the marked increase in the use of professionals over the past few years. Usually charities have fallen victim either to bad timing or too narrow a base as regards the appeal of the stars.

In late 1990, one of the biggest Aids charities, the Terrence Higgins Trust, put on a show called *Life Serenades* at the Brixton Academy in London. It starred Marc Almond and Everything But The Girl, which outsiders might have thought would be enough to draw a crowd. The show lost £10,000 and taught the trust a lesson. Other Aids concerts have had to be cancelled.

"Concerts are the least cost-effective area of fund raising when charities try to run them themselves," says Francis Cox, special appeals fund raiser for the trust. "Part of the problem is that they are terribly labour intensive and you never know how successful they are going to be. The planning takes a long time and in that time a lot can go wrong. In the case of the Brixton concert we started planning it at the

beginning of 1990 but by the time the show went on the recession was just beginning to bite. We couldn't get the numbers."

That uncertainty contributed to the trust having to make redundancies last year when its forecast income fell short of its forecast expenditure, but it will benefit from Monday's concert. Indeed it has already received a seven-figure boost from royalties donated by high-street record retailers when Queen's biggest hit, "Bohemian Rhapsody", was re-released immediately after Mercury's death.

Aids charities can also benefit from obtaining the video copyright on events. *Hysteria 3*, re-broadcast on Channel 4 last week, is a comedy show run every two years. It is the brainchild of the actor-comedian Stephen Fry and viewers who switched off when the credits rolled will not have noticed the most significant credit of all: "Copyright Terrence Higgins Trust Enterprises." This gives the television and video copyright to the trust, a significant boost to the £100,000

received in telephone pledges during *Hysteria 3*.

That is part of the reason why the first move Queen Productions made when it planned Monday's concert was to set up the Phoenix Trust, a one-off organisation designed solely to handle the income from Monday's concert. By the time it is wound up, Aids charities around the world will have made amounts that would be unimaginable through any other form of fund raising. If a minor side-benefit is that another Tracey Chapman rises to fame next week, nobody suffering from Aids will be heard complaining.

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TOMORROW
The Fiery Angel comes to London

Aids charities will have made amounts that would be unimaginable through any other form of fund raising

Spring is sprung, the hormones is riz

The trouble with surprise spells of warm weather is that they make you think of sex — rather inconveniently, in my case — in the general direction of sex. Damn and blast. What aristocratic creatures we are, to be tweaked by the season in such an obvious way. You would have thought you could rise above it, in an age that can invent the multi-purpose bin-liner. Instead of which, all it takes is a small gust of warmish breeze ruffling the hair on the back of your neck, and the next minute you are staring pensioners at the Post Office by singing *Gimme Gimme Gimme a Man After Midnight* while queuing for your tax disc.

Perhaps this is why the single person feels an enormous urge to spring-clean: it is Nature's way of turning surplus sap into a white tornado. "Sub-Lim-Ate" orders a croaky Dalek voice in one's head, and it seems wise to pay attention. Right, yes, get cracking. Polish the carpets, hoover the cats, worm the walnut veneer. Eradicate the Sex Monster by sheer effort of elbow grease, and meanwhile pray for snow. As an additional precaution, remove any erotic element from your environment, such as Georgia O'Keeffe pictures (the ones that remind you of orgasms), and the

Andre Agassi calendar you were so proud of. Deliberately avoid watching *A Bouquet of Barbed Wire* when it is repeated on TV Heaven, and put all your Gérard Depardieu videos in the shed.

But there is an old saying in my family: push sex out of the front door and it will come back through the plughole. "Phew," I said to the cats last weekend, when all this superego activity was accomplished. "Thank goodness I've dealt with that little problem." But my sense of security was as ill-founded as Sigourney Weaver's in *Alien*. I leaned back in the bath and switched on *The Archers*, and jumped out of my skin. The Sex Monster was back! And it was running wild in Ambridge! I was aghast. Since when had *The Archers* been scripted by the ghost of Tennessee Williams? I silenced the radio in a bucket of water, but not before thinking that a "trip to Felpersham" sounded nice. Damn and blast again.

So I was in a slightly jumpy mood when I went out for a drive on Sunday. On the run from both the Sex Monster and the Jil Imperative, I ran straight into my nightmare combination of both — viz, the blokes with squeakers who haunt the traffic lights at Vauxhall Cross. Damn and blast for a third

SINGLE LIFE
Lynne Truss on the frustration caused by a warm breeze



time. They come looming up at you unbidden, these johnnies; and then they clean your windows whether you like it or not. I had forgotten about them, because they disappear in the winter. But on the first warm day they rise up again miraculously, fully armed with buckets of water and beany hats. They are, I fancy, generated out of the swirling of Vauxhall-by-the-mystical action of the sun, like cro-

diles from the mud of the Nile.

Allow me to explain why I hate them so much. What happens is that having innocently drawn up at the traffic lights, you are approached by a man (or a kid) with a wet sponge, who is intent on washing your windscreen for a small fee. You mime a polite "No thanks" but he is not deterred. You wave and swivel your palms in the internationally recognised signal for "Leave it out, mate, and hop it", but he slaps the sponge on the glass, so that it dribbles dirty water across your line of vision. "Bugger off," you shout, but by this time he is wiping off the water, and you notice (at short range, through the glass) that he is the sort of person who breathes through his mouth, and wears the word "Hate" tattooed on his knuckles.

Perhaps there are motorists who do not feel intimidated as I do, perhaps they say, "Oh goody" and start rooting in their pockets for change. But perhaps they are not single women, frazzled by the challenge of suppressing their springtime libido, and crazed by the sea-change to *The Archers*. But it is a point of principle, in any case: if I say "No" to these blokes, I truly believe they should leave me alone. To my mind, washing someone's windscreen against their will is

quite as menacing as accosting them at a bus stop and insisting on manuring their nails.

In the meantime, what is to be done about vanquishing the Sex Monster? Well, this week's plummeting atmospheric pressure has dealt with the immediate problem, thank goodness. I put the Andre Agassi calendar back on the wall yesterday, and I honestly feel OK. "Chew string" was one helpful suggestion; also, "Roll yourself in a length of carpet and rectify *The Waste Land*" (apparently it works for some people). Back from my ghastly encounter with the Invasion of the Bucker Men, then, I decided to give the carpet-option a try, and it certainly helped. Despite gagging on the dust-balls, I found it amazing how Eliot keeps the Id firmly under wraps, while his unmistakable bass-line rhythm makes the whole experience so jolly. "I think we are in rats' alley Where the dead men lost their bones"

There's not a soul out there No one to hear my prayer We'll all be leia We'll all be leia Gimme gimme gimme a man after midnight.

TOMORROW
Private Life: John Diamond



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THE CATS PROTECTION LEAGUE

BRITAIN'S OLDEST CHARITY SOLELY FOR THE WELFARE OF CATS.

MADAM BUTTERFLY: Graham Vick's elegant production of *Madam Butterfly*, with Stefano Lazzari's much-lauded minimalist designs based on the use of sliding screens, makes yet another welcome return to the Coliseum. The English National Opera's cast includes Susan Bullock (Butterfly), David Rendall (Pinkerton) and Norman Bailey (Sharpless). Andrew Greenwood conducts the first night. Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (01-836 3161), 7.30pm.

THE ALCHEMIST: Jonathan Hyde and Philip Voss head a grand cast in Jonson's satire on greed and city life, transferring to a larger stage after four years' sell-out at the Swan, San Mendel director. Opening night. Barbican, Barbican Centre, EC2 (01-836 8891), 7pm, then in repertoire.

CHALLENGER: An intriguing first play by Sacha Mitter, starring herself and Greg Hicks as a married couple whose love survives surprising hazards, including a sex change. Director: Lisa Forrell. Opening night. Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (01-836 3161), 7.30pm.

ENGLISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA: Christoph Eschenbach conducts the orchestra in works by Haydn, the first of which is a soloist in Mozart's *Quintet for piano and wind*, K452 and *Piano Concerto No 27*, K595. Haydn's *Lendinzer* for flute and oboe, and *Symphony No 52*, "Oxford", complete the programme. Barbican, Barbican Centre, EC2 (01-836 8891), 7.45pm.

LONDON PHILHARMONIC: Zubin Mehta conducts a programme beginning with Tchaikovsky's *Violin Concerto* (with soloist Maxim Vengerov), followed by Stravinsky's *Symphony in Three Movements* and finishing with Ravel's

ANGELS IN AMERICA: Thrilling performances in Tony Kushner's fascinating state-of-the-union drama on AIDS, religion, politics, everything. National (Coliseum), South Bank, SE1 (01-828 2252), Today, 2.30pm and 7.30pm, 2.10mins.

BACK UP THE HEARSE AND LET THEM STAY THE FLAMES: The art of the salesman: William Gammara's comedy points out the tricks but singifies deeper. Barbican, Barbican Centre, EC2 (01-836 8891), 7.30pm, 1.10mins.

THE COTTON CLUB: An impression of the Harlem nightspot, high on energy, low on story freshness. Aldwych, Aldwych, WC2 (01-836 4404), Mon-Fri, 7.30pm, Sat, 8pm, mat, Wed, 2.30pm, Sat, 4pm, 15mins.

THE DARK RIVER: Accomplished recital of Rodney Ackland's 1937 drama: nature and necessity in an English driftnet towards war. Orange Tree, Clarence Street, Richmond (01-840 3633), Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mat, Thurs, 2.30pm, Sat, 4pm, 16mins.

DEATH AND THE MAIDEN: Juliet Stevenson, Michael Byrne, Tony McCarthy stars in Arif Durrani's Cheilan political drama. Best play of 1991. Dulwich Theatre, Dulwich, SE21 (01-836 5122), Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat, Thurs, 2.30pm, Sat, 4pm, 12mins. NB: new cast from April 18.

AN EVENING WITH GARY KILPATRICK: Sometimes, don't look at the fantasies of a frustrated woman married to a soccer nut. Dulwich, Dulwich Theatre, WC2 (01-840 3633), Mon-Thurs, 8pm, Fri, Sat, 8pm and 8.45pm, 13mins.

FROM A JACK TO A KING: Wit and style version of William Somerset Maugham's play on the rise of a young man to the top, set in the world of rock bands and packed with stories. Boulevard, Waterloo, WC2 (01-836 5122), Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat, Thurs, 2.30pm, Sat, 4pm, 15mins.

GOOD ROCKING TONIGHT: Satisfying musical, devised and written by Jack Good, celebrating Fifties and Sixties pop classics, with affectionate take-offs

NEW RELEASES

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TODAY'S EVENTS

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kari Knight

music for Diaghilev's ballet, *Daphnis and Chloé*. Festival Hall, South Bank, SE1 (01-928 8800), 7.30pm.

WH SMITH ILLUSTRATION AWARDS: In 1980 the bookmaker's WH Smith set up an annual award for published British illustration. This show, which coincides with the announcement of the year's winners, is a retrospective of earlier prize-winners and other entries. In all cases the original art work is shown along with its published form. The styles range from the routinely traditional to the boldly experimental, testifying to the continuing variety and vitality of the British illustration tradition. Victoria and Albert Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 (01-938 8371), Mon-Sat 10am-5.30pm, Sun, midday-5.30pm, opens today.

UNIQUE AND ORIGINAL: During its 20 years of existence, the Glasgow Print Studio has built up an enviable reputation as one of the most lively and enterprising centres for print-making in Britain. It has benefited from its location, persuading many of the younger Glasgow figurative painters, such as Peter Howson, Ken Currie and Adrian Wozniak, to make prints for the studio. It has also benefited from the company is notable for its younger talented donors. Seidler's Wells, Barbican Centre, London EC1 (01-278 8918), even, 7.30pm, mat, tomorrow, Sat, 2.30pm.

MOSCOW CITY BALLET: Now on its second visit to Britain in five months, this troupe, founded seven years ago by Victor Smirnov-Golovinskiy, brings its new production of *The Sleeping Beauty* to London. The sets and costumes are not as attractive as they could be, but the company is notable for its younger talented donors. Seidler's Wells, Barbican Centre, London EC1 (01-278 8918), even, 7.30pm, mat, tomorrow, Sat, 2.30pm.

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THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of current theatre showing in London

House full, returns only

Seats at all prices

of Steele, Vincent, Furry et al. Playhouse, Northumberland Avenue, London WC2 (01-722 9901), Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat, Sat, 4pm, 12mins.

THE COTTON CLUB: An impression of the Harlem nightspot, high on energy, low on story freshness. Aldwych, Aldwych, WC2 (01-836 4404), Mon-Fri, 7.30pm, Sat, 8pm, mat, Wed, 2.30pm, Sat, 4pm, 15mins.

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CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and where indicated with the symbol (●) on release across the country

thrust together in an Arctic community. Arch Percy Adkin drama with a few fringes of *Star 8*. Stars: K. Lang. National (01-437 0757).

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CONCOURSE GALLERY, BARBICAN CENTRE

EC2 (01-638 8851). Daily, midday-7.30pm, opens today.

THE CONN IS GREENE: The Greenwich Theatre production of *The Conn* is a comedy about the relationship between a young Welsh schoolboy and his school teacher is revived for 11 performances prior to a nationwide tour. Frances Roddicks heads the cast. Greenwich Theatre, Croom's Hill, London SE10 (01-858 7755), tonight, Sat, 7.45pm, mat, Sat, 2.30pm.

TIME OF MY LIFE: The summer season opens with a new comedy written and directed by Alan Ayckbourn. The play is set in a local restaurant where three couples meet and discuss their lives. The season encompasses three world premieres including a new Tim Firth play, *Rocky and the Moon*, a play by Clifford Odets whose work is enjoying a revival of interest following the more recent work of Firth which was based on his life. Stephen Joseph Theatre in the Round, Valley Road, London N1 (01-436 5111), preview tonight-Fri, 7.30pm, Sat, 4pm and 8pm.

PELE: A mix of turel, infectious pop and stinging lyrics from this Liverpool band warming up for a full-length tour to promote a debut album, *Fireworks*. Hammersmith, Hammersmith, W6 (01-874 2136), 8pm.

MOSCOW CITY BALLET: Now on its second visit to Britain in five months, this troupe, founded seven years ago by Victor Smirnov-Golovinskiy, brings its new production of *The Sleeping Beauty* to London. The sets and costumes are not as attractive as they could be, but the company is notable for its younger talented donors. Seidler's Wells, Barbican Centre, London EC1 (01-278 8918), even, 7.30pm, mat, tomorrow, Sat, 2.30pm.

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copy



Can you hear me at the back?

Modern theatres must stage both intimate drama and larger-than-life spectacle. Kenneth Rea asks whether the size of a house affects the style of the production

Shakespeare, of course, had a smallish theatre in mind, when he wrote: "Speak the speech, I pray you, as I pronounced it to you, trippingly on the tongue." Since then, actors have roared, bellowed and bawled their way through the Bard's lines as theatres have grown progressively larger and audiences have struggled to hear the distant performers.

The demands we make on today's actors are rigorous not only do we expect audibility, but we are measuring performances in large spaces against the yardstick of television naturalism. Yet our national theatres possess three magnificent stages — the Olivier, the Barbican and the Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford — from which it is difficult to make oneself heard.

Inevitably, acting style is dependent on the size of the space. But can an actor perform satisfactorily if he is straining to reach row 42? Whether it is Shakespeare, Shaw or David Hare, the big national stages have spawned a somewhat declamatory style, while the real advances in acting seem to have been made in small spaces like The Other Place and the Cottesloe.

Adrian Noble, artistic director of the RSC, is a champion of giant banners and big battle scenes. He feels perfectly comfortable in the Barbican Theatre, though he finds the RST in Stratford difficult. "I am a great believer in what large space Shakespeare can offer," he says.

"I think it's thrilling," adds Noble. "And I love actors who can fill it and thrill audiences with their voices. The Barbican is a pushover after the RST. If you've played Stratford for a year you can play absolutely any theatre in the world."

Richard Eyre, artistic director of the National, is ambivalent about the more problematic Olivier Theatre and would like to do more small-scale work. "Gyps and Dolls was the first show I did

in the Olivier," he says. "It was so friendly that I thought, I don't see what the problem is. Then I've done other things there where you can feel as if you're shouting the wrong way down a huge tunnel. It's a very difficult space."

"When it's really working in your favour, and it often works with comedy, it's like surfing," explains Eyre. "You get on a wave and the laughter just rolls down this massive cliff of a theatre like surf pounding the beach. Then it can be thrilling and thoroughly exhilarating."

"Public scenes work wonderfully well in the Olivier. Grand gestures, loud voices, bold statements. It's all a bit

'Many never make the leap from small rehearsal space into large theatre'

bigger than life. But I think audiences do make those willing adaptations if the truth of what's being presented is uncorrupted."

Cleady, national institutions need big public stages. But the plays must be chosen carefully. Noble's *Henry IV Part I* has an epic sweep to it, but what of small-scale productions, like the RSC's highly successful *Alchemist* which tonight transfers from the intimacy of The Swan to the cavernous Barbican stage? And are those big spaces really suitable for more naturalistic plays?

David Hare's *Murmuring Judges* and Shaw's *Pygmalion* have such lavish productions at the Olivier that the actors are frequently overwhelmed by the visual spectacle and many of them are reduced to barking at each other so that their voices do not disappear into the wings. "It's a dilemma of the medium," explains

Eyre. "You want to be as popular as possible, and you want as many people to see it. But the best theatre spaces for plays tend to be quite small — 400 or 500 seats. The Royal Court, some of those Shaftesbury Avenue theatres: they seem to be the right combination of public and private. When you get into a 1,200-seat theatre you're saying something quite different about the event. Often you feel that you're pumping up the play to match the expectations that the building seems to suggest."

Racing Demon in the Cottesloe was one of the best things I've ever seen in a theatre," continues Eyre. "When we transferred it to the Olivier it did feel stretched. But it met a really important demand. It was getting to a point where people were saying, as they are now saying with *Angels in America*, 'I cannot see this play. Why do you put it on in this small theatre? So eventually you say, alright well put it on in a theatre which can accommodate it.'"

Voice coaches take the brunt of the challenge. Patsy Rodenburg, the National's voice director, points out that while the 19th-century auditoria were made of wood, the Olivier has some acoustic problems which could be corrected. "The architects have made such a mess of this," she says.

"They've put padding in, they've used concrete. None of this is sympathetic for the human voice. Acoustically it's very dead. What happens is that you don't ever feel when your voice is filling the space. So actors push, and that's when it gets ranty or declamatory."

Part of the problem is adapting to the space. Plays are rehearsed in small spaces for a director sitting very close, with just a wall behind him. "Many, many productions never make the leap from the small rehearsal space into the large theatre," says Sir Ian McKellen.



The National's *Richard III* (above): an easier play to manage in a large space. Right, Ian McKellen benefits from the intimacy of the Cottesloe in *Uncle Vanya*

"The performance will be in intention the same, but the further the audience gets away from the performers, the more likely it is that the projection of the performance will somehow make it more crude," McKellen adds.

Since his unforgettable *Macbeth*, featuring McKellen and Judi Dench at The Other Place, Trevor Nunn has insistently explored Shakespeare on an intimate scale. His *Othello*, *Timon of Athens* and *Measure for Measure* have all been remarkable for their clarity and apparent effortlessness.

It is actors find this work as refreshing to play as audiences find it inspiring to watch. But how many people get to see it?

"The revelation of Trevor Nunn's *Macbeth*, and many of the other smaller-scale productions of the classics, is that one discovers something about the plays which is absolutely germane to the way they are written," says McKellen, who

is currently playing in an equally exclusive *Uncle Vanya* at the Cottesloe before reviving his *Richard III* at the Lyttelton next month. "I'm not enamoured of the sort of director's theatre which interprets a play to the exclusion of all other interpretations."

"I am much more in favour of an audience doing the interpreting and the production presenting the play in all its detail. That's much better done in a small space. That isn't to deny that you can't have a wonderful experience in a large theatre. But everything will have to be bigger, more presented, exaggerated. There's an awful lot of *Richard III* where a larger-than-life character tries to rule the world and he speaks directly to the audience," adds McKellen. "It's an easier play to manage in a large space than *Uncle Vanya*. But I do favour smaller theatres, as an actor and as an audience."

The greatest problem with large stages is that because of the collapse of the regional repertory system, younger ac-

tors have not experienced the kind of apprenticeship McKellen and his generation went through. Some of them reach the national companies straight from drama school, or via a television series. This is bound to mean a decline in standards. As Noble puts it somewhat bitterly, "You can have won an Oscar and not have spoken a single line of Shakespeare."

Everything falls back on the actor's and director's crafts to conceal the difficulty of making the text live in a vast space without losing the truth. Cicely Berry, the RSC's voice director, believes this is possible if actors are given the chance to get used to the stage. "You have to take time to make that bigger space a friendly space."

"The greatest compliment you can have in the main house is, 'I could hear every word.' It makes me angry that that is seen as the most important thing because it is the subtleties and intimacies that can get lost. I have an awful feeling that nothing is better served in a big theatre."



Hows and whys of war

A new exhibition marks the 350th anniversary of the English Civil War.

John Russell

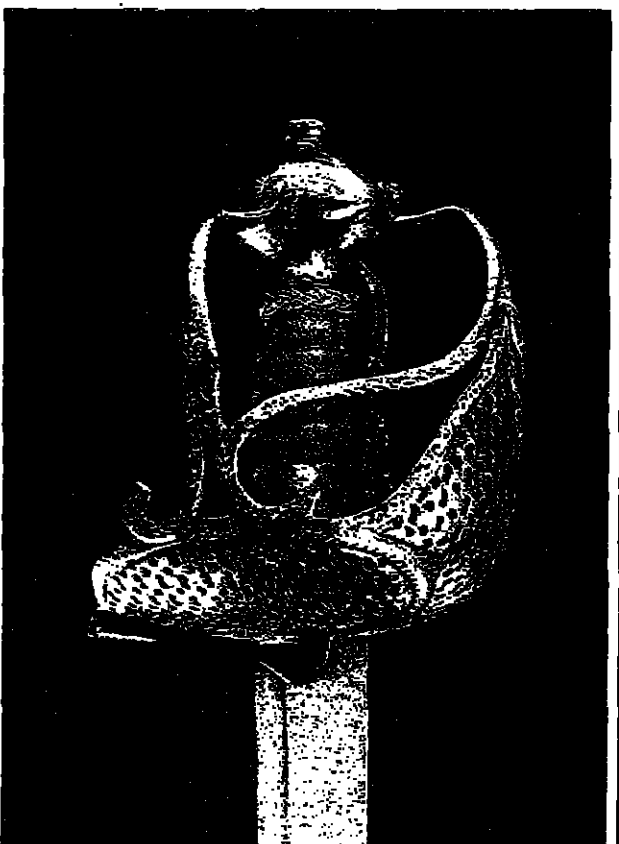
Taylor reports

The formulation of 1066 and All That seems to have impressed itself for ever on the English consciousness: of course, the Cavaliers were wrong but romantic, the Roundheads right but repulsive. So, naturally, Charles I has entered the pantheon of martyrs and Cromwell that of secular heroes. What is not always so clear, despite the film in which they were incarnated respectively by Richard Harris and Alec Guinness, is the how and why of their conflict. If nothing else, that is the first thing that the Civil War exhibition elucidates.

It is appropriate that it has started its tour in Hull, since Hull was, after all, the scene of one of the crucial happenings of the English Civil War. Hull Town Docks Museum is directly opposite the site of the Beverley Gate, where the town burgesses denied Charles access to the arsenal in 1642, thus providing the subject for several Victorian history paintings.

Moreover, this exhibition of Civil War treasures from the Royal Armouries collection, travelling outside the Tower of London in some cases for the first time in 350 years, includes a suit of armour which there is evidence Charles II wore at the raising of the siege of Hull in 1643, being then 13 years old — which no doubt accounts for how the tallest English king was able to fit into armour possibly belonging to his father, the shortest English king.

All the later venues for the exhibition, the first such event organised by the Royal Armouries, have some specific connection with the Civil War. Coventry was besieged by the Royalists in 1642; Charles I raised his standard at Nottingham Castle in August 1642; Worcester was the scene of both Prince Rupert's first cavalry victory over the Parliamentarians in 1642 and the last rout of the Royalist army



A sword believed to have belonged to Oliver Cromwell

in 1651; Cirencester was taken by storm by Prince Rupert in 1643. The course of the three separate phases of the Civil War is made perfectly clear in this exhibition and vivid through all the local associations.

All this constitutes an admirable framework for the original arms and armour on display. The show is designed to demonstrate that for all their attractions of design and material, the main exhibits had a serious warlike purpose: the weapons were meant to injure and kill, the armour to provide practical protection.

That seems hard to imagine in the case of the resplendent gilded and chased armour of Charles I, which one might assume to be for decorative and ceremonial purposes only. In fact it seems likely that the king actually wore it in battle, and for all its flashy finish it would certainly be strong enough to withstand quite heavy punishment. For all their practical uses, the principal suits of armour

remain quite beautiful when regarded purely as artefacts, and the same is true of Cromwell's sword and other rich and ornate metalwork on view, such as the gunner's quadrant, used to calculate the elevation of a cannon's barrel, or the model cannon made for Charles II when a child. On the other hand, a curious tool improbably called a combined pliers, worm and veng-picker (necessary for clearing a weapon after use) looks like an anticipation of the Swiss Army pocket-knife.

No doubt it helps if visitors are particularly interested in British history to begin with, but that is by no means the only pleasure to be obtained from this show. And if any visitors are not, in this, the 350th anniversary of England's only significant challenge to the monarchy, it is probably high time they should be.

● The Civil War exhibition continues at the Town Docks Museum, Hull (0482 543902) Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 1.30-4.30pm, until May 31. Sponsored by The Times.

"NOBODY has come to me and said, 'I want to learn to talk to me.'" Spot the moaner in last night's *Without Walls* (Channel 4), which focused on Radio 1's silver jubilee and (after the break) Ingmar Bergman. Cue: he did not sport a Swedish accent.

What with disc jockeys talking as if they are paid by the syllable, it seems superfluous to ask for more, but "Hang the DJ" — a megastatic story of our favourite national institution — went ahead anyway, and sought the views of some of Radio 1's statesman-like voices.

Dave Lee Travis was the one at whose feet people have not chosen to learn communication skills, and no wonder. In

his own bathetic words, he is "well-known for being from Manchester".

Let us not be too hard on DLT. Mike Read claimed that "the old image of the disc jockey as a complete and utter jerk is not true," but with a guitar in hand and a homespun homily about the DJ as Father Pan on his lips he was ill-equipped to disprove it as anyone.

The station was a sitting duck 25 years ago: nowadays it is more of a bedridden

TELEVISION REVIEW

Paid by the syllababble

Amazings, really, that the careers of a quartet of partying celebs could sound less interesting than the stories of old widows and widowers talking about love, but with *Not at Their Age* 40 Minutes (BBC 2) made it happen. Minus the booze and the hwy, this was Kingsley Amis's *The*

Old Devils for real, in which pensioners told of their 11th-hour re-marriages.

"I thought that no one would want to look at me," confessed Mary, a nonagenarian, but she had reckoned without Jim, one of her fellow residents in an old people's home, who was attracted to her partly because "she had such a lovely window". At that age, it seems, a woman does not keep her best attributes about her person. Philippa Lowthorpe's docu-

mentary worked on the principle that the more elderly the couple, the more rapidly the editing cut to and fro between them. This achieved the near-impossible feat of making the subject sound racy.

The programme quite properly drew back from making fun of its participants, and Jean, who married Bob a few weeks ago, repaid that restraint by going on the record about septuagenarian sex. "Although we're senior citizens, we're not exactly dead from the neck down," she confided to the camera. Didn't someone once say that from the neck up, the reverse was true of disc jockeys?

JASPER REES

ROCK

Blue collar stays crisp

DESPITE his massive successes at home, John Mellencamp has been a notable absentee from the ranks of the North American "blue collar" rockers who court the British market. Even this two-week visit to promote a six-month-old album, *Whenever We Wanted*, has been accompanied by virtually no press previews or promotion.

Yet the show was a triumph, an immaculately paced display of stagecraft allied to a vitality that would do credit to a performer half his 40 years. Although his band has altered little over time — guitarist Mike Wanchic has been on board for 17 years — the recent recruitment of guitarist David Grissom (from Joe Ely's band) was an inspired move. It is Grissom's sweet, overcranked sound which dominates the superlative

John Mellencamp
Wembley Arena

Whenever We Wanted and at Wembley he and Wanchic provided a meaty backdrop to Mellencamp's impassioned drawl.

Drummer Kenny Aronoff provided a propulsive heavy rock foundation, while Lisa Germano (violin) and John Casello (accordion, saxophone and keyboards) added a distinctive streak of country colouring.

Mellencamp stamped his own mark on proceedings with a confidence bordering on arrogance. A dominating presence despite the nondescript jeans, T-shirt and trainers outfit, he whipped the band through a long set that never flagged. Around him snake-hipped guitarists

wheeled and manoeuvred in loose formations and backing singers thrugged furiously as numbers were crunched up together in a feel-good canter: the chunky riffing of "Now More Than Ever", the derisive sneer of "Pop Singer", the anthemic "R.O.C.K. in the U.S.A." and the irresistible clang of "Hurts So Good" among many others.

In a show weighted in favour of his older songs, Mellencamp replayed the familiar themes of anti-corporatism and the celebration of the small town mentality, but made disappointingly little use of the much fresher and sexier material from *Whenever We Wanted*. Even so, the integrity of this remarkable performance was never in doubt.

DAVID SINCLAIR

Julia Fordham
Royal Concert Hall,
Glasgow

invites admiration rather than involvement.

It seems almost cruel to note that Fordham's most successful single, the recent hit "Love Moves in Mysterious Ways", was written by the veteran American duo of Dean Pitchford and Tom Snow. Delicate enough to be one of her own compositions, but with the discipline of a

formal structure and hummable chorus, it is one of the prettier mainstream pop songs of the past year and provided four minutes of relative drama at the end of a thunderously applauded but one-paced show.

Fordham will tour Japan now before playing the Albert Hall on May 1. Her popularity seems to be growing at a healthy rate, but a stab at collaborative songwriting might still serve her long term career aims best.

ALAN JACKSON

ARTS BRIEF

Armchair opera

RADIO 3 and the Royal Opera have reached agreement on a scheme which guarantees that 12 Royal Opera productions will be broadcast live each year. One of the criticisms levelled against Covent Garden in recent seasons has been that comparatively few of its stagings reach the armchair audience that cannot afford seats in the stalls. But the boast by Radio 3 that the agreement will bring Royal Opera productions "live into millions of homes" seems a trifle optimistic.

Fruits of success

CHARLOTTE KNOX has won this year's W H Smith Illustration Award with her watercolour paintings for *Fruit: A connoisseur's guide and cookbook*, written by Alan Davidson. Last night at the Victoria and Albert Museum she was presented with a cheque for £3,000 by Sir Simon Hornby, chairman of W H Smith. Sir Simon also

opened an exhibition at the V&A of work by artists who have been winners since the sponsorship — including Quentin Blake, Peter Brook and Patsy Simmonds. A companion exhibition will tour Britain this year.

Acts of charity

SEATS for the National Theatre production of *Uncle Vanya* are hard to acquire, but a late night charity performance has been slotted in this Thursday at 11.45pm. Most of the proceeds will go to the Jan Charleson Trust, providing grants to students at LAMDA; a second beneficiary will be the family of Syd Hill, a member of the NT maintenance staff who died earlier this year.

Last chance . . .

MEN — desired, resisted or feared — are the unseen characters in *I Stand Before You Naked*, ten monologues for women by Joyce Carol Oates. Moments of comedy alternate with disaster, and the performances are vivid. Ends Sunday at the Offstage Downstairs, Chalk Farm (071 267 0457).

Barbican Spring Choral Series
GOOD FRIDAY 17 APRIL 7.45PM
MOZART REQUIEM
City of London Sinfonia James Judd cond. Andrew Marriner clarinet
Birgit Fandrey, Penelope Walker, Philip Salmon,
Mark Gaultville soloists, Tallis Chamber Choir
MOZART
Overture Magic Flute; Clarinet Concerto; Requiem
Seat Prices £20 £17.50 £13 £10 £7.50
BARBICAN HALL 071 638 6891 (9-11 DAILY)

Apostle to the apostles

Mary Magdalene is more sinned against than sinning

Think sex, sin and Easter Sunday. Now think of the name of a woman in the New Testament. If the name isn't Mary Magdalene you're reading a different Bible from mine.

For nearly two thousand years this woman, the first person to see Christ after his Resurrection, has been presented to us as a reformed prostitute, as the very model of "the great sinner". Yet nowhere in the New Testament is there any evidence that Mary Magdalene was ever either a prostitute or a great sinner, sexual or otherwise.

So why did she get stuck with the label? There were, after all, better-qualified candidates for the unqualified role of great sinner. What about Paul, who persecuted Christians enthusiastically before he saw the light on the road to Damascus? What about Peter, who denied his lord three times?

What little there is in the New Testament about Mary of Magdalene (her hometown was Magdala) shows us a woman out of whom Jesus cast seven demons and who then became a devoted disciple. She was at the cross when some others weren't, attended the burial and, according to Mark and John, is the first person to whom Christ appears after his Resurrection.

Mary Magdalene was the one to whom Christ entrusted the Christian message that there was life after death. She rushed to tell the others and, it seems, was disbelieved. That's about all there is in the gospels.

As the criterion of being an apostle is to have met with the risen Christ, Mary Magdalene therefore should hold a position of honour as the first apostle. And one strand of early church tradition does name her as "the apostle to the apostles". However, that was the real Mary Magdalene. The mythical one

MARY EVANS



Devoted: Mary Magdalene

proved more enduring, a composite of Mary Magdalene, the prostitute who anoints Jesus' feet, another woman who anoints Jesus and Mary of Bethany, Lazarus and Martha's sister. Somehow Mary Magdalene and the prostitute, the great sinner, who anointed Jesus, became one: a potent concoction of sex, sin, demons and penitence.

Why did this myth develop? The "seven demons" and Mary Magdalene's status as neither virgin nor mother provide the clues. In a biblical context "demons" can often imply not only the evil sins of sexuality but also the madness to which unbridled sexuality can lead. And who is in a position to exercise "unbridled" sexuality? The adult woman is under the control of neither father nor husband. Independent. Free.

Ursula King, professor of theology at Bristol University, believes the Mary Magdalene myth has "a lot to do with the control of women's sexuality by men. As long as women are attached to some male authority figure they are seen as benign and good. But as soon as women make themselves independent of male control they are seen as highly explosive and a danger to everyone. If they are single they must be temptresses, they must be sexually misbehaving. I see Mary Magdalene as an early religious example of this attitude."

Ann Loades, reader in theology at Durham University, agrees that Mary Magdalene has had men's problems with women and sex "dumped on her". "There's absolutely no reason to connect her with prostitution and/or sexual sin."

During a radio talk which began a series called *Seeds of Faith* in which women reflect on themes from the Apostles' Creed, Professor King said: "In their ignorance, traditional churchmen and women fear the challenge and authentic power with which women speak... But Christian feminists think otherwise — they experience the dynamic re-interpretation of Christian faith and practice as a sign of life, a sign of hope and prophetic vision for the church, a sign of the presence of the Spirit among us, a sign of resurrection and new life."

ANN LLOYD

*Ann Loades gives the last talk in the Radio 4 series, *Rise Again and Ascended*, at 11.30pm on Easter Sunday.

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Ann Stone, a staunch and wealthy Republican, is breaking ranks to fight the party's anti-abortion stance, Jamie Dettmer reports

Challenging the 'big lie'

Two years ago, Ann Stone was a *bête noir* of American Democrats and radicals. A high-profile, wealthy, pugnacious Republican fundraiser and direct-mail expert, one of her greatest claims to fame was that she helped Jesse Helms, the arch-conservative, secure reelection to the Senate in 1978 in the highest spending campaign drive in congressional history.

She still is a conservative and a Republican but now Democrats are looking at her in a new light and many of her old political friends fear she is sprouting horns and forsaking the true path.

Take for instance a letter she received recently from Robert Dornan, a Republican congressman who she helped get re-elected. "You just fell off the Republican bridge and the raging waters are sweeping you to the rocks to destroy you forever," he wrote.

Ann Stone's offence is that she is "challenging the myth, the big lie," as she puts it, that a majority of Republicans support the rigid anti-abortion position adopted by the party in 1980. Sitting in her elegantly furnished Virginia office, which is decorated with old prints and a stout wooden desk, she exudes confidence and certainty. She is one of a growing number of important Republican women who are breaking ranks, opposing White House policy and warning that electoral disaster eventually awaits the Grand Old Party, if it persists on its anti-abortion course.

In 1990, Ms Stone, now aged 39, launched a political action committee and lobby group dedicated to campaigning for a shift in Republican policy. Republicans for Choice has raised more than \$1 million and has 50,000 names of supporters on its direct-mail computers.

Driven by her libertarian strain of conservative thinking, she claims "the vast majority in the party don't believe that government has a role to play in the issue. What I am saying is that you are not a bad Republican, if you are pro-choice." On a wider note, she insists that the Republicans' "pro-life" position goes some way in explaining why the party has not in recent years matched its successes in presidential races with as resounding victories in the congressional and gubernatorial fields.

Ms Stone's conservative friends would have been horrified to see her marching at the well-attended pro-choice rally in Washington last month. Although a later survey suggested that 5 per cent of the half-a-million marchers were Republicans, the demonstration was very much a Democrat affair. Both Democrat presidential contenders, Bill Clinton and Jerry Brown, were there trying to drum up support. Jesse Jackson made an impassioned "keep hope alive" speech. Anti-Bush placards were everywhere. "I think the Republicans there felt they had to keep their heads down," Ms Stone says.

Nothing had prepared Ms Stone's friends and enemies for the launching of Republicans for Choice. For some it was as great a shock as if Mary Whitehouse were



Warning lobby: Ann Stone's committee, Republicans for Choice, has raised more than \$1 million and has 50,000 names of supporters on its direct-mail computers

to set up Christians for Pornography. The distrust many liberals feel for her is understandable. Her record is painted in the deepest conservative hue, although she insists that she has always believed privately in abortion rights.

Her background was far from affluent. Raised in Connecticut, her father died when she was four, and for several years her mother remained single, supporting as best she could her three children. The family's finances improved slightly when her mother re-married a truck driver.

At George Washington University, where she was studying history and communications, her life took off. There she met Roger Stone, later to become one of the most celebrated Republican political strategists, and, encouraged by him, became chairwoman of Washington Young Republicans.

On graduating, the two got married, and Mr Stone, who is hated by the Democrats, went to work for Senator Bob Dole while Ms Stone

joined *Human Events*, a conservative weekly magazine, as marketing manager.

The couple matched each other stride for stride as they went up the ladder of conservative politics and financial success. Mr Stone was soon glorying in being described as a "master of hardball politics". The *New Republic*, the political weekly, was less flattering, headlining a profile of him, "The State-of-the-Art Washington Sleazeball".

Other liberals were hardly less polite about Ann Stone when she went to work for Richard Viguerie, the guru of political direct-mail campaigning. Mr Viguerie taught her that, "mail in a political campaign is like an Indian in moccasins who can sneak up and overtake his adversaries before they know what's happening". Ms Stone learnt well and used the lesson on behalf of a variety of conservative causes, including the Nicaraguan Contras.

In April 1983, she set up the first of her own direct-mail companies. Within a few years she had banked

'Political friends fear she is sprouting horns and forsaking the true path'

her first million dollars and secured a divorce from Mr Stone.

In a recent interview she said about the breakdown of her marriage: "You know you've grown apart when you go to the video store together and pick out separate videos and go to the house into separate rooms to watch them."

Ms Stone does nothing in half measures. There is a strident touch to her. She comes across as a woman without doubts.

She dismisses those Democrats and radicals who question her pro-choice sincerity and cast complicated conspiracy theory webs to

explain her campaigning on behalf of abortion rights. "I have always been pro-choice," she says. She explains that she was complacent about the abortion issue before the 1989 Webster decision by the Supreme Court, a decision which increased the power of states to restrict abortion. Her concern has grown as several states have exploited the decision.

Her anxiety started at the same time as Lee Atwater, the brilliant Republican political consultant and brains behind the 1988 Bush campaign, began to fear that the GOP was in danger of losing its wide appeal. Despite the fact that two pro-choice Republican action committees had already been formed, Mr Atwater, who died last year, encouraged the setting up of Republicans for Choice.

The Atwater connection provoked even more suspicion about Ms Stone's objectives. The head of another Republican pro-choice group recently alleged: "She was anointed by Lee Atwater to start this group as a way to siphon off

money from other organisations that are more genuinely pro-choice." "Paranoid," is Ms Stone's response. She points out that the other Republican pro-choice groups have been less effective in raising the issue and money and that they are motivated by jealousy. She has the credentials of sincerity. She claims she has lost work for her direct-mail firms because of her stand, and that she has lost friends. Mr Viguerie is "disappointed". Others on the right are angry, including Pat Robertson, the fundamentalist television preacher who contested the Republican presidential nomination in 1988. Mr Robertson sees her as a raging feminist.

Slowly, the other pro-choice Republican groups are coming round to Ms Stone. This August, at the Republican convention, the anti-abortionists in the party may well see the start of a concerted attempt to shift the GOP from its 1980 position. "It could be interesting," Ms Stone says, with a rather threatening twinkle in her eye.

The low status of science — and scientists — is driving one of this country's brightest prospects to the United States

No brave new world in Britain

Like thousands of other Britons, Dr Alison Goate and her family will be heading for the United States this summer. Unlike the great majority, she is not just going for a two-week vacation to gorge on hamburgers and smile at Mickey Mouse. She has a one-way ticket and has no idea when she will be coming back.

Dr Goate's family are swapping a life of crowded tubes, late trains and drizzly mornings for a detached house, a ten-minute journey to work on the freeway and maybe even a swimming pool and Jacuzzi.

Most importantly, Dr Goate is going to a country that appreciates her work as a scientist. Washington University School of Medicine at St Louis, Missouri, is prepared to double her salary and offer her husband a research job.

Dr Goate is one of Britain's most marketable assets. At 33, she was one of the small team of scientists at St Mary's Hospital Medical School in London who discovered the gene mutation responsible for one type of Alzheimer's disease.

The discovery was acclaimed as a major advance in understanding the mechanism of the disease and was voted the most influential scientific research last year by the Institute of Scientific Information in Philadelphia, making Dr Goate one of the highest profile young female scientists.

Dr Goate is passionate in her commitment to researching Alzheimer's disease and is very loyal about her team (mostly women), who now work with her in cramped conditions at St Mary's Hospital Medical School. At first, unlike two other members of the team, she resisted the lure of America. But her salary is £20,000 and her husband, who is also a scientist, could not find funding in Britain.

"I know £20,000 sounds a lot of money. But it took me eight years to train to be a scientist," Dr Goate says. "I can be working 12 hours a day and I feel that I am doing something equally as important as a banker, politician or journalist."

The Americans agree. Alzheimer's disease is taken extremely seriously across the Atlantic. In Britain, as many as a million people are thought to be suffering from the disease, the incurable and most common form of dementia, which robs mainly old people of their memories, their personalities and their independence. Until the breakthrough at St Mary's, little progress had been made in understanding Alzheimer's.

"The problem was that most of the analysis looked at the brains of dead Alzheimer's patients and that is like trying to analyse a graveyard. If you can discover the relevant genes you can get right to the heart of a disease," Dr Goate says. "Our aim has been to find the genes and what is causing the disease and then start working on a way of slowing it down."

The team found one of the genes within five years and Washington University is hoping Dr Goate will be as quick to understand the causes of the disease.

"I think 'brain drain' is too scary a term, but we will not keep our position at the top if we continue to cut down on resources for science and allow too many people to go," Dr Goate says.

She feels that the main problem is that too few people in Britain understand the rudiments of science and so misunderstand its importance. "Science is for men in anoraks and sideburns, isn't it? The British love mistrusting word processors and not understanding their toasters, 90 per cent are



Missouri-bound: the United States offers a more secure future to Dr Alison Goate, Dr Frank Ashall and Juliet, their daughter

hopeless scientists and are frightened off by the whole process. The rest have been taking science seriously from the age of 16 and become too specialised and cut off too young. We need people to learn a mixture of all disciplines.

"Scientists are called illiterate if they haven't read Shakespeare but most politicians probably don't understand the rudiments of basic chemistry. It is unforgivable when the influence of science and technology on daily life is so evident."

Dr Goate is also galloped by the lack of women at the top of her profession. "There are a lot of women in junior positions. Because research is poorly paid and the

hours are appalling, many men just give up unless they can make it to the top. In this department 50 per cent of the researchers are women, but there is only one woman in a full-time academic position."

So how has Dr Goate succeeded? "I think going to an all-girl's school [St Albans Girls' Grammar] helped. It boosts your confidence and there was no question that girls weren't good at science. I read a book called *Chemistry of Life* and that made me decide that I wanted to do biochemistry for a degree."

Although she is immensely satisfied with her career, being a

scientist has proved tougher than she thought. "If you want to have children you have to take minimal maternity leave otherwise you fall too far behind," she says. "Then you have to pay for a nanny to cover your long working hours and be prepared to move to where the jobs are. The salary just doesn't cover a mortgage in the South-east."

She knows that she has been lucky with her husband, Dr Frank Ashall. As a fellow scientist he understands the pressures. He has been working on the bio-chemistry of Chagas disease, which resembles sleeping sickness and affects thousands of people in South America. But he cannot get the funding to

continue his research. "My husband is just as good a scientist, but because Chagas is a Third World disease no one is interested," Dr Goate says. The couple's research will now complement each other: while Dr Goate teases out the genes behind Alzheimer's, her husband will work with proteins resulting from the action of the genes.

Dr Goate has worked in the US but felt homesick. She had forgotten why she left Britain until she saw the lack of funding in the labs and the low morale among scientists — this time she is not putting any time limit on her stay.

ALICE THOMSON

ery



More sex with your beefcake

An erotic magazine for women is edited by a man, and women run many men's magazines. Caroline Sullivan investigates

Is Britain ready for an erotic magazine aimed at women? Yes, say the publishers of *Penthouse*, who will launch *For Women* on April 30. It will be a glossy bi-monthly featuring "bold, provocative" examinations of women's sexual issues. The erotic part will be pictures of nude men.

Female-directed sex magazines are not virgin territory. Several years ago *Playboy* magazine introduced a female erotic magazine to Britain — *Playgirl* met a lukewarm reception which never heated up. It is still available as an import but few newsagents in Britain stock it.

Despite this, the team on *For Women* are confident that it is time to try again. They cite recent sex supplements in men's magazines such as *Company* and say they have received consumer requests for exactly the type of publication they are launching. They plan to print 100,000 copies of the first issue. The high cover-price of £2.95 is intended to convey a sense of up-market sophistication. Inside, readers will encounter "in-depth" articles, overview pieces and surveys.

As its star turn, the first issue boasts a photo-spread of "one of Hollywood's top box-office pin-ups". The managing editor, Isabelle Koprowski, will not reveal the pin-up's identity, but admits the pictures were taken before he was famous.

The non-celebrity nude photo sets, of which there are three in the first edition, will be "tasteful, aesthetic appreciations of the male form," says Ms Koprowski. "They're not theatrical or crude, just very beautiful."

Apparently this was where *Playgirl* failed. Its models, Ms Koprowski feels, were "too American". That is to say, they were unsuitable, over-muscled and, the *coup de grace*, their haircuts were terrible. *For Women* models will reflect British taste in beefcake.

The magazine is not aimed at specific age-groups or classes. Rather, says Ms Koprowski, the *For Women* woman will be distinguished by "a greater interest in sex than normal. Women who want to read about sex but want a deeper approach than conventional women's magazines."

The magazine is edited by a man, Jonathan Richards, who also edits *Penthouse*. Mr Richards conceived *For Women* and, remarks Ms Koprowski, he "seemed like the natural person to edit it because he was keen to do it. We agreed that he would listen to and consult women all the time. We didn't need to recruit another woman because we've got me here."

Heaven knows, there is a need for a forum devoted to the literate discussion of women's sexuality. Women's magazine, agony columns attest to this. *For Women* hopes to answer the need.

But naked men? Are they really necessary? You could probably

make a case for them by invoking that industrial-strength excuse, post-feminism. Having got this far, one could argue, is it not hypocritical for women to cling to residual pretences of modesty? Shouldn't we openly leer too?

Conversely, if we have barely even cleared the starting gate, divesting men of clothing and dignity might give women a sense of self-determination. But the nudes still seem a pretty tacky idea.

"I think a lot of women would feel cheated without the nudes," says Ms Koprowski. "I know I would." Ms Koprowski, though, is not an average woman, or an average female journalist. She is not only managing editor of *For Women* but also presides over an empire of sex magazines that

'I think that a lot of women would feel cheated without the nudes. I know I would.'

includes the monthlies *Penthouse*, which claims 600,000 readers, and *Forum*, with a claimed readership of 200,000 (she is a former editor of the latter). She has final say on all text and pictures. *Forum* is also edited by a woman, Elizabeth Coldwell, aged 27, and *Penthouse's* deputy editor is Zak Jane Kier.

The editor of *Big Ones*, which claims sales of 80,000 a month, is Marie Harper, and much of the text (sample cover-line "A Dozen Double-D Dames") is produced by Karen Piper, a cheerful 28-year-old from Pimlico.

"I think that was one of mine. I write so many I forget," she says. "I also write most of the letters. They're not that simple to do. It seems like it's just filth. But it has to be written in an appealing way. You're either good at it, or you're not. I have no qualms. It's just fun and interesting."

Ms Koprowski says much the same thing but embellishes it with theory and literary references. Her life-long interest in sex ("I was orgasmic very early and by 11 or 12 I was reading books such as *Fanny Hill*") led her to pursue a PhD in Latin erotic poetry. She abandoned it to join *Forum* as its editor. She is articulate, engaging and fed up with justifying what she feels is a useful, fulfilling career.

"Pornography has been a scapegoat. They have never established a causal link between rape and pornography. I know a woman who has worked with sex offenders

for ten years and not one has ever blamed pornography."

The American serial killer Ted Bundy did. "When someone is criminal to Ted Bundy's extent, how can you believe anything they say?" Ms Koprowski says. "There's a book by Thomas Szasz, *The Manufacture of Madness*, about societal scapegoats. That is what's happened to pornography. Men don't get their attitudes towards women from porn, they get them from observing the relationship between their parents."

"We portray women aesthetically. The captions try to convey their personalities. The only thing I don't really like is some of the sex phaseline adverts, because the photos are sometimes not very tasteful. Sometimes we do ask an advertiser to change a photo."

Miss Coldwell believes there is "a large overlap" between *Forum* and the works of some erotic poets, like Fiona Pitt-Kethley. "It is irritating," she says. "We are not seen as literary and they are. If it appears in a hardback book it is literary, but if it is on the top shelf of a newsagent's it is not."

Forum runs its own poetry and fiction, albeit of an earthier stripe. "I'd rather use blunt language than flowery prose," says Miss Coldwell. Readers often submit pieces: there are a couple of serial poets who commit every liaison to paper and forward it to her.

"One of the nice things about my job is that you see the vulnerable side of men," Miss Coldwell says. "Normally you just see the tough, inviolate side. A magazine like *Forum* helps break down the hypocrisy surrounding sex."

Miss Kier adds: "If anything, we portray women very positively. They look good, the photographs are beautiful and the girls are obviously enjoying themselves in the pictures. I'd do it myself if I wasn't so pasty."

What brought her to *Penthouse*? "I wanted to be in journalism, preferably on a magazine where I knew a bit about the subject. I have a tremendous curiosity about sex. I read men's magazines before I worked here. [18 per cent of *Penthouse's* readers are female, according to its publishers.] What I hate is people who sigh and say: 'Don't you think it degrades women?' The other thing they always ask is: 'Do you make up the letters?' No, we don't."

At *Big Ones*, where they do, Ms Piper says she has found her niche. "An ordinary person like me, with no relevant qualifications, it would have been difficult to get into journalism otherwise. This is easy for me. If we need a big-boobs letter I just pretend I'm a man and it comes easily."

"I'm quite happy to do adult writing and I don't get tired of thinking up stuff. My friends sometimes say: 'Phooaarrrr, can you write one about me?' But they're generally all right about it."



Isabelle Koprowski: *For Women* is aiming for readers with 'a greater interest in sex than normal'

AND BRIEFLY

Omelettes: cruel food

EGGS are associated with Easter because they are seen as a symbol of new life, springtime and all good things. The Campaign Against Omelettes — a newly formed protest organisation — argues that eggs should be seen as a symbol of suffering: the suffering of battery hens. "We think it would be a better idea to eat chocolate eggs all year round," says Avis Greenwell, one of the organisers of the campaign.

Ms Greenwell is an environmental health officer and a vegan who has an interest in the egg question both as a campaigner for better animal husbandry and a restaurant customer who is tired of being offered omelettes when she says she doesn't eat meat. "I'm sick of going out for 'celebration' dinners only to eat salads and chips," she says, "so we're issuing a challenge to chefs around Britain to produce something interesting and different for vegans in the time it would take to rustle up an omelette."

Further details from Campaign Against Omelettes, 155 Castle Way, Dale, Haverfordwest, Dyfed SA62 3RN (0646 636 528).

No meat here

ICELAND, the frozen food company, has just produced one of its "helpful hints" leaflets on "catering for vegetarians".

The leaflet, with ideas for party food, main courses, salads, freezer foods and adapting meaty menus for a single vegetarian guest, is free to readers who send a postcard to: Vegetarian Guide, Iceland Frozen Foods, Honey Pot Lane, Stanmore, Middlesex HA7 1LE.

Easter luxury

FORTNUM & MASON, long-famous for its Christmas hampers, has come up with a seasonal equivalent for Easter. The Children's Easter Basket (£12.75 plus £4 mail order) contains a jar of Fortnum's honey, a paper-covered pictorial egg, a chocolate hen, foil-covered chocolate and marzipan Easter eggs — all presented in a wire, duck-shaped basket.

For grown-ups there is "The Celebration Egg" full of Fortnum's vintage champagne. Fortnum's 1lb simnel cake and assorted foil-covered chocolate and marzipan eggs — all presented in a printed moire silk-covered paper egg. It costs £95 (plus £5 mail order).

Jewels from junk

AN INCREASING number of innovative young companies are using recycled waste products as raw materials. One such is Scrap Scrap (Unit D4, Maur's Craft Centre, Ferry Road, Jackfield, Shropshire TF8 7LS), which produces beautiful handbags, hats, jewellery, candlesticks, bedspreads and mirrors out of what was once junk. "Not only is all our fabric recycled," the company boasts, "most of our accessories are too — zips are unpicked from old garments, boxes for packaging come from supermarkets, the peaks for our caps are made from plastic milk cartons and we print our own labels on scraps of fabric."

Scrap Scrap products are sold at Liberty, where their velvet shoulderbags sell from £50 or less.

VICTORIA MCKEE

Tragedy of cell block C1

Writer and former prisoner Anna Reynolds's airy flat in Kilburn, north-west London, is a far cry from the high-security jails where she has spent two of her 23 years.

Children are playing in the gardens below, their laughter providing a poignant counterpoint to the story Ms Reynolds tells of a fellow prisoner in Holloway who killed her 13-month-old child in 1986.

That woman's story has provided the basis for Ms Reynolds' first play, *Jordan*.

"Shirley (not the woman's real name) tried to kill herself and her child, Jordan (also not his real name). She had a violent boyfriend, was severely postnatally depressed, and wanted to be together with Jordan where no one could hurt them."

"She smothered the baby and took an overdose. But she failed to kill herself. She was charged with murder and sent to prison," Ms Reynolds says. What inspired her to write the play was the contrast between her own knowledge of Shirley and society's judgment of her. "People couldn't see beyond the immensity of the fact that a mother had killed her child."

Ms Reynolds understands that situation all too well. For, at the age of 18, Ms Reynolds killed her mother.

Ms Reynolds had suffered from severe Premenstrual Syndrome which dramatically affected her behaviour. However, at her trial this was not known and Ms Reynolds was convicted of murder and sentenced to life imprisonment. Two years later, in a ruling that made legal history, definitive clinical evidence proved her medical condition, her sentence was commuted to manslaughter and she was released on probation.



Jail play: Anna Reynolds

Like Shirley, the protagonist of her play, Ms Reynolds will never forgive herself for what she has done. When you ask her about herself there is a sudden vulnerability, a brittle nervousness that halts her speech. She is still bruised by "the stripping away of personality" which she feels is a function of the prison system. Shirley and Ms Reynolds met in C1, Holloway's high security psychiatric wing. "Shirley was better treated than most nances (the term for sex offenders in men's prisons, used for women who have abused or killed children in women's jails) because everybody could see she was a classic depressive, she cried all the time. The worst thing was that C1 adjoined the mother and baby unit so Shirley could hear babies crying."

Hardly surprisingly that Ms Reynolds espouses campaigns for humanising the prison regime, but she believes reform of the system comes second to reforming peoples' perception of a "criminal": "I don't believe that some people are intrinsically evil. So I don't believe in punishing them in an inhumane way. If you feel remorse for what you've done,

Two women who killed loved ones met in jail and a drama was born

you will punish yourself, like Shirley did, like I do. If you don't, no prison will ever change you. Of course, society needs to be protected from some individuals, but they could be humanely contained — containment is a very different concept to imprisonment."

But how is this altering of perception to come about? Anna believes one of the most powerful tools can be drama.

Jordan is not a naive play. It does not seek to exonerate Shirley, nor does it find an easy scapegoat in the male-dominated legal system. It invites the audience to make an imaginative leap beyond the horror of Shirley's act to gain insight into the workings of her mind. The final text, a combination of Anna's raw material with refinements from Moira Buffini, the actress who plays Shirley, carries tremendous emotional impact.

ELLEN CRANITCH

Jordan opens at the Lillian Baylis Theatre, Sadlers Wells, on Tuesday, April 21 and runs until May 16 (Box Office 071-537 4104)

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How society relies on its volunteers

A recent report by the National Council for Voluntary Organisations showed a fall in local authority funding of

She said: "During the past two years in particular, many voluntary organisations have been reporting growing financial difficulties with local authorities. This has come at a time when company giving

Michael Brophy, the executive director of the Charities Aid Foundation, says that but for legacies the voluntary in-

Mr Brophy believes the answer lies in higher amounts of giving. He wants more support for the Windsor Group, formed by several charities to encourage increased giving. At present 3 per cent of wills contain a gift to charity. Mr Brophy is calling for more legacy giving. Payroll giving and gift aid also need to be promoted, he says.



British charities will be in the front line of changing social needs

The threat of increased VAT bills has been lifted for the time being. VAT could eventu-



A new health and safety directive to come into force next January will require safety requirements for VDU operators. The EC directive on driving licences could require charities to spend large sums on training and testing minibus and playbus drivers.

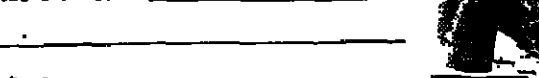
Conferences organised by the National Council for Voluntary Organisations and the Directory of Social Change this summer will examine EC legal and fiscal structures, how to move into Europe and how to obtain grants from European trusts and foundations.

Voluntary bodies must be properly governed, just like companies

able from The Darlington National Council for Voluntary Organisations, 26 Bedford Square, London W1 (071-636 4066). The Manic Depression Fellowship is at 13 Rosslyn Road, Twickenham, Middlesex TW1 2AR (081-892 2811).

● **Information about the working party on trustee training is available from Tim Darlington, National Council for Voluntary Organisations, 26 Bedford Square, London W1 071-636 4066. The Manic Depression Fellowship is at 13 Roslyn Road, Twickenham, Middlesex TW1 2AR 1081-892 2811**

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Partners for good health

Kate Holley
looks at charities
that achieve best
results through
collaboration

Child 2000, a child health charity, which committed to immunising 95 per cent of all children by 1996 against diseases such as measles, mumps and polio — was reborn last year. The organisation, founded in 1983 as the National Rubella Council, aims to wipe out rubella and other serious childhood diseases in Britain by 2000.

Enlisting celebrities in its education schemes, the charity has grown, from concentrating on rubella, to cover a much wider range of immunisation projects and research into serious and some potentially fatal childhood diseases. Fiona Fountain, of Child 2000, says last year was the first since records began that no child has died from measles in Britain. Child 2000 must take much of the credit.

The charity is about to start research to discover why so many parents still fail to have their children inoculated. Although nine out of ten children nationwide are vaccinated against rubella, in some inner city areas this figure falls to fewer than six out of ten.

Child 2000 is now working



Protecting the young: Child 2000 wants most children vaccinated against the common diseases within four years

with other charities, providing information and services for professionals and the public. Child 2000, which needs more than £80,000 every year, believes collaboration with other groups is the best way to make programmes succeed.

This month, Help the Aged will celebrate its first year of partnership with the Rural Development Commission on a number of projects. One project, at Rossendale, Lancashire, developed a home visiting scheme, emergency telephone systems, community transport and ways of repairing old housing. Help the Aged and the commission will

donate £150,000 each over three years to support projects in rural areas throughout England.

Charities are working in a climate of decreasing government aid. Help the Aged is keen to publicise the view, put forward by Robin Guthrie, the chief charity commissioner, that charities must "invest money in order to raise money". Alliances with commerce, industry, local authorities and other volunteer agencies have given the charity new impetus and greater influence in a society where there is increasing competition for funds and publicity.

John Mayo, the director-general of Help the Aged, believes in working with other charities to provide the most efficient, cost-effective services. Help the Aged already gives grants to other charities.

Help the Aged, which ranks ninth in the recent Charities Aid Foundation survey of the 200 leading charities, raised more than £33.9 million last year. Its recent fund-raising schemes include events such as the Unisys Golf Tournament, which aims to encourage both amateur and professional

sports people to raise money through sporting events. Showbusiness stars such as Lionel Blair have helped, beginning with the Bin Bag Auction in Covent Garden, central London.

New work with the Salvation Army created a new community centre for all ages in Winton, near Bournemouth, Dorset, which opened in February.

At the end of March another charity appeal, No-Meeting Week, was begun as part of Tommy's Campaign, an initiative at St Thomas' Hospital, London, to help parents to have healthy babies. The

week, which was aimed at younger children, used the children's comic character Dennis the Menace to promote a No-Meeting Club.

Tommy's Campaign intends to raise £5 million for a new National Centre of Excellence in Fetal Health at the hospital and is being run in support of the Baby Fund charity. The campaign aims to involve people of all ages in "fun, creative activities and events". In February Tommy's Pottery Club was started, aimed at encouraging the staging of sponsored Pottery Events, such as a haggis hunt in Glasgow. The scheme already involves the Girl Guides and the Working Mothers Association, and National Pottery Day is planned for the autumn.

The campaign highlights the difficulties many charities face because the NHS cannot fund some services. Instead, hospitals and organisations must seek outside financial assistance. Lucy Nelson, the campaign's managing director, says: "Although the NHS is sympathetic, it is unable to provide all the resources needed."

As 600,000 babies are born too small or too early every year in the UK, the hospital plays an important role in caring for both parents and children. A centre of excellence should provide research that will benefit women and babies nationally and internationally.

Already £1.5 million has been pledged by Gateway Foodmarkets and a group of leading financial institutions.

In pursuit of the professionals

CHARITY work is growing in appeal to executives, woman returners and academics at a time of growing need for professionalism in the voluntary sector. According to the annual voluntary sector salary survey by CR Charity Recruitment, highest paid charity staff earn on average 79 per cent of their counterparts' salaries in comparable commercial organisations.

The average salary of a chief executive in the larger charities is £39,000, compared with £50,325 in the commercial sector.

Olga Johnson, CR Charity Recruitment's chief executive, says: "What some charities are lacking in basic salary power they are trying to offset by offering attractive benefits packages." In charities with an income of more than £3 million, 40 per cent offer their chief executives cars, 30 per cent have relocation policies, 42 per cent give more maternity leave than legally necessary and more than 90 per cent provide pensions.

Basic pay increases for charity staff averaged 9.5 per cent in the 12 months to February 1992, compared with 5.5 per cent in the commercial sector.

Despite the lower pay, there is no shortage of people wishing to work in the sector. Working for a Charity, an organisation helping those

who want to change careers, started in January 1990 and is on its fifth course. More than six out of ten people from the first course found charity jobs.

Susanna Cheal, who founded the baby life support systems charity Bliss with £10 and has seen it raise several millions of pounds, is one of the organisers. She says: "What we provide is orientation to the culture. We have a lot of people who are trying to get into charity work but failing to make the shortlist. After our course, they do."

Bob Glatter, a partner at the London accountancy firm Blick Rotherberg, says many charities are run by well-meaning amateurs, good at raising money but bad at administration.

Ms Cheal says: "There is a big difference between a profit-making company and the charity sector. There is no return for shareholders. All you get from investing in a charity is a sort of warm feeling. There is the challenge of marketing an issue with no profits and no resources."

"You have to be persuasive and creative. Some people who want to work for a charity think they are getting out of the rat race. We tell them they are just becoming a different kind of rat."

RUTH GLEDHILL



AN ACTOR with the History Re-enactment Workshop brings to life issues surrounding charity and treatment of the poor at the recent Charityfair in London.

The re-enactment was commissioned by the Charities Advisory Trust, which was set up ten years ago with Home Office funding. The trust believes the earliest charity act showed prejudices still relevant today. Ruth Gledhill writes. The trust is planning seminars and reports on this

The challenge of raising cash

How the charities are exercising imagination to attract funds

ONE of the most successful fund-raising efforts in recent years has been the Church Urban Fund, started in 1988 after the Church of England's "Faith in the City" report. Ruth Gledhill writes. By the end of last year, the campaign had raised £18 million.

Of the church's 43 dioceses, 20 have met their targets. Funds have been secured to award grants at present levels until 2003, seven years short of the 20-year target. Last year 186 grants went to locally run church-linked projects. This year about 50 grants have been made, making 500 projects supported since the fund began.

Events have cut across every barrier of race and social status. Parishioners from Blackburn, Lancashire, tackled the highest mountains in Scotland, England and Wales in less than 24 hours, raising £2,500. The Rt Rev Tom Butler, Bishop of Leicester,

climbed 50 church steeples. Members of the general synod slept out in cardboard boxes, raising more than £13,500 for projects for homeless people.

Martin Field, the communications director, said: "By using the real experts, those who live and work in urban communities, initiatives supported by the fund have a deserved reputation for being practical, cost-effective and good value. The fund works closely with trusts. It is respected by the corporate sector, which has donated more than £3.2 million."

Giving to all charities by the corporate sector has been sustained during recession, reports a survey in the magazine *Corporate Citizen*.

The survey found the largest corporate donors increased charitable giving by 1 per cent in real terms last year. Fourteen of the 100 leading charities more than doubled their donations, and 30 gave more



Vital job: most workers raise money, says Ruth Horton

than £1 million between July 1990 and June last year.

Some companies give a proportion of pre-tax profits to the community through the Per Cent Club. According to the report "Charity Trends", published by the Charities Aid Foundation, just over 5 per cent of the total income of Britain's charities comes from companies. Equally important non-cash contributions are made in the form of management expertise and facilities.

Local authority funding, however, is falling, says a report by the National Council for Voluntary Organisations. At the same time, a Directory of Social Change report shows increasing numbers of NHS hospitals turning to charity to raise money.

In the present climate, a higher than ever premium is being placed on fund-raising efforts by volunteers. Ruth Horton, the editor of *Step by Step*, published by the Volunteer Centre, says most volunteers are involved in raising money.

The guide offers practical advice on making fund-raising enjoyable, preparing contingency plans in case a celebrity fails to appear, and keeping everybody informed of the outcome.

A national survey by the Volunteer Centre found that up to 23 million adults were involved in volunteering in the UK annually.

One of the main challenges for the sector is to increase giving. The Windsor Group

was formed under the auspices of the Council for Charitable Support, chaired by Lord Whitelaw, to consider whether charities could work together to raise giving. The group is planning a campaign to promote giving. The group's research found 20 per cent do not give, 10 per cent are active givers, seeking opportunities to lend support, and 70 per cent are passive givers, donating when asked.

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A: The Alzheimer's Disease Society

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- * Works through a network of 300 support groups and branches.
- * Provides free literature and a monthly newsletter to its members.
- * Gives information on aids, services and other resources.
- * Encourages the provision of services for diagnosis and assessment, and support through day care and sitting services.

Q: What is Alzheimer's disease?

A: It is the commonest form of dementia affecting 34 million people in the UK alone, and is cited as the fourth largest killer disease. 1 in 5 of the over 80's can suffer and in some instances victims can be as young as 30 or 40 years of age.

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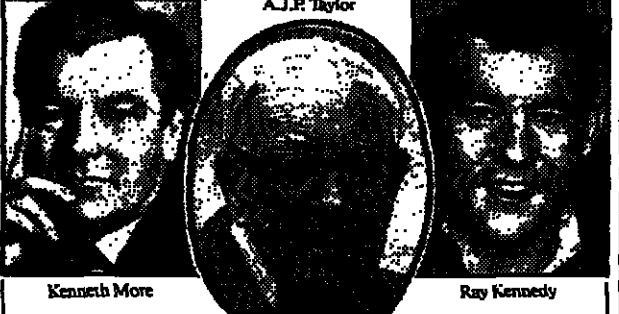
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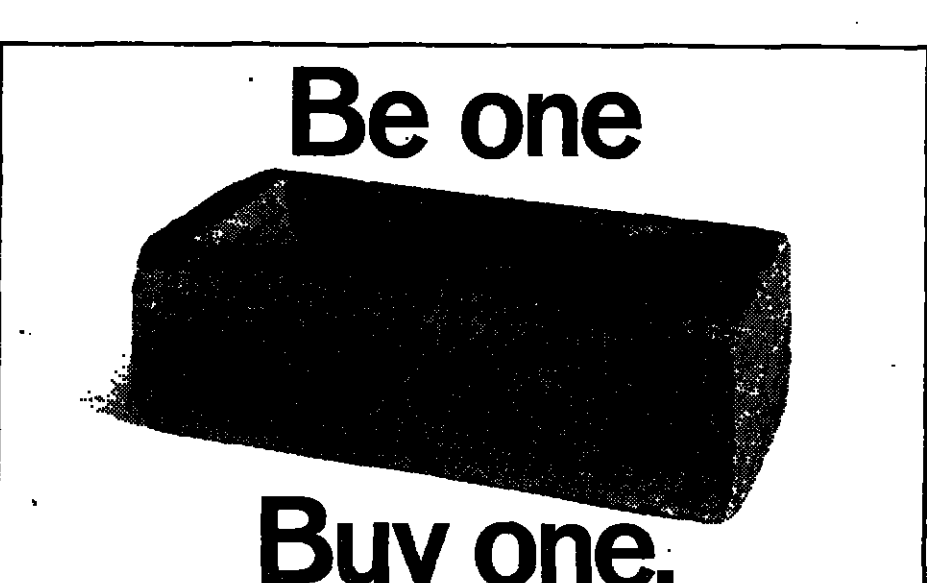
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BEST BUY
Hiding in the hills

Shared ventures are stimulating development, Christopher Warman says

Joint interests in Wales

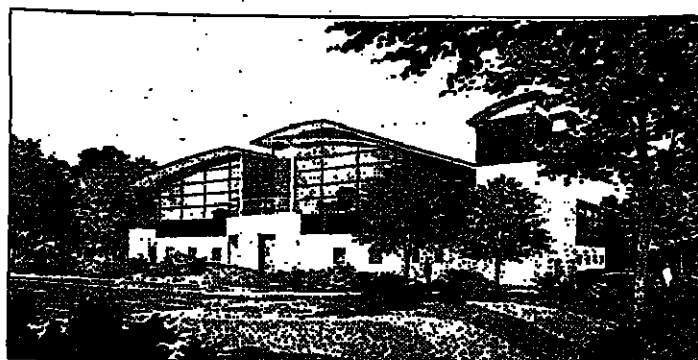
The general election result has been greeted with enthusiasm by the property market, for ending political uncertainty as well as for the Conservatives' victory.

Chris Bartram, managing partner of Jones Lang Wootton, said the result was good for both the investment and tenant market. The Conservative government would provide an immediate boost to business and the financial markets, which he believed would feed into the property industry.

This is welcome news to all sectors and to all regions, and is likely to increase the momentum of development in Wales, where bodies such as the Welsh Development Agency (WDA) have been fighting to bring investment to the area.

Although the Welsh commercial property market has been quietened by the recession, the agency can point to encouraging signs. Manufacturing growth in Wales has increased at nearly double the rate of the rest of the UK in recent times, and Wales has attracted a high rate of inward investment, with companies such as Bosch, Toyota and Sony drawn to the principality for its ease of access, versatile labour force, and the financial incentive of grants and loans from central government.

A survey by Investment Property



Celtic Lakes, Gwent: impression of the new development project

Databank last year concluded that Wales has weathered the first phase of the downturn in industrial growth better than the rest of the UK, forecasting that its rental growth would outperform the national average every year until 1995.

One way in which the agency has been attracting development is through its Welsh Property Venture Initiative, set up in 1990 to foster joint venture schemes between the agency, developers and local authorities. During 1991-2, 18 new projects under the scheme have been started, double the number in the scheme's first year, 1990-1.

Current projects under the scheme include a £100 million

science and office park at Celtic Lakes, Newport, Gwent, by Trencherwood Commercial with the Bassaleg Group; the 80-acre Hawfin Park development at Blackwood, Gwent, where new offices and industrial units are being built by Hawfin plc; 20,000 sq ft of offices for Kimberly-Clark in partnership with the Redrow Group at Northop, Cwmtydd; and 60,000 sq ft of industrial units at Caerphilly, Mid Glamorgan, in partnership with the Aoki Corporation of Japan.

On the retail front, Cardiff has shown remarkable resilience in the present market. The Capitol Centre, completed last year, is now 95 per cent let, and the Queens

Arcade shopping centre, an £80 million joint development scheme between BICC Developments and London & Edinburgh Trust, has just been launched.

Queens Arcade is due for completion in 1994 and will have 140,000 sq ft of stores and shops.

The Cardiff Bay Development Corporation is confident that its controversial plan for a barrage to provide a 500-acre lake and eight miles of waterfront and unlock development land, will be approved by Parliament. The bill to enable the barrage has reached the standing committee stage, and the corporation hopes work could start early next year.

This will provide a further boost for the area, which recently saw the Welsh Health Common Services Authority become the first organisation to locate in the 40-acre Capital Waterside development in Cardiff Bay. Grosvenor Square Properties Group, property development arm of Associated British Ports Holdings, has agreed a 150,000 sq ft pre-let on a 25-year lease. The 174-acre Capital Waterside scheme is the largest waterside scheme to be undertaken by Grosvenor Square. Planning consent has so far been given for 800,000 sq ft of offices, some 200 residences, and hotel, retail and leisure facilities.



No 1 Jermyn Street, St James's, a landmark development overlooking Piccadilly Circus, London, has been launched on to the market with an asking rent of £49.50 a sq ft for its 120,000 sq ft office space. The scheme, by Mountleigh Criterion Ltd, a joint venture company between Mountleigh and the Japanese department store Sogo, provides some of the largest office

floors to be built in the West End. The focal point of the building is a 100ft glass atrium and a 39ft-diameter glass dome above the boardroom or conference suite on the seventh floor. At ground level the development is marked at the junction of Haymarket and Piccadilly by a large sculpture, the

Horses of Helios by Rudy Weller. The asking rent, through Jones Lang Wootton, is part of a package including a rent-free period and help with fitting-out costs. Jones Lang Wootton reports an encouraging upturn in leasing activity in the West End, and says the No 1 Jermyn Street scheme has attracted an "excellent" response.

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Right on the modern track

Marcus Binney celebrates Dutch station architecture, which sets an example for the rest of Europe

Post-Modernism brought bright colour and eye-catching shapes into a world made grim by colourless concrete slabs. Yet while Post-Modernism flourishes in the United States and Japan under the presiding geniuses of Michael Graves and Arata Isozaki, in Europe a determined attempt is being made to kill it off and replace it with the cool rationale of high-tech and neo-Modernism.

Therefore anyone who believes that the future of architecture lies in the existence of choice should make a point of visiting the latest Dutch railway stations.

Harry Reijnders, who is the chief architect at Nederlandse Railways, explains: "Light and colour are two of the most important building materials. We believe our stations must be bright open places with maximum visibility. Then you don't need picturegrams telling everyone where to go."

He continues: "You know the old saying of the modern movement, 'Less is more'. Well, we say, 'Less is a bore'. We believe in putting decoration back into architecture. Decoration has a function. We want our stations to be pleasing places to wait in."

Market research showed that passengers objected particularly to windy platforms. So it is now Netherlands railway policy, wherever feasible, to enclose the tracks with an all-over glass and steel roof, providing protection from the rain and the wind, but allowing you to enjoy the glow of the sun.

The latest is Amsterdam's RAI on the southern branch of the circular railway around the city. Here is a transparent tunnel in the sky; the curved sides have the familiar slope of an underground station but as the tracks are elevated you have panoramic views all around.

To increase the sense of lightness the girders are honeycombed, punched with as many holes as could be imagined without causing them to snap.

What makes the station smart is the livery: scarlet railings and girders on the island platforms contrasting with the matt black of the roof. Everything is designed to create a streamlined effect, with twin red handrails for adults and children like go-faster stripes.

The vertical columns are without the capitals they would have had in Victorian times, and follow a graceful boomerang curve to meet the roof. Appropriately, there are flashes of Post-Modern wit such as the column almost sliced away as if to say "Look no hands".

These sleek overall roofs cannot be justified on revenue grounds at smaller stations, so the railway



Tunnel in the sky: Amsterdam RAI, where the emphasis is on colour and light, and the creation of a comfortable, safe place to wait

architects are constantly thinking up cheaper ways of giving stations an eye-catching presence.

Arnhem-Velperpoort is a suburban station with a startling new entrance housing the staircase up to the elevated railway tracks. "Look what we can do with a dull concrete box", it proclaims. The box is in fact no more than a frame at the sides and the top. The station hall and balcony above break the bounds of this frame in a bold, serpentine curve. Charcoal mosaic cladding contrasts with an egg-yolk roof to the balcony. Above, a tomato-red container hangs mysteriously from the sky.

This is not so much architecture as three-dimensional sculpture. Reijnders acknowledges the influence of Piet Mondrian, the great Dutch artist: "He worked with a few primary colours and a collection of grey tones which closely matches the corporate colours of the railway."

To complete the composition there is a tilework waffle-iron grid in umbrella black, and sky blue tiles.

At Hoogezand-Sappemmer in northern Groningen, even a simple country halt has been given the treatment. Here the need was for no more than a small waiting room. So the architects designed a gateway to draw attention to the platforms.

The theme is fashionable Deconstruction, the mode by which an architect appears to explode or pull a building apart. True, the row

of white plastic seats, elevated on a pigeon-grey podium and looking solemnly at a wastebin, may seem a bit contrived, but the "building" achieves its main purpose: once seen, never forgotten. Ingenious too is the way the waiting-room, glazed from floor to ceiling, looks out to the street as well as to the platform, reducing any uncomfortable feeling of isolation for those

There are flashes of Post-Modern wit such as the column almost sliced away as if to say 'Look no hands'

who wait at night. (New waiting rooms at Dutch stations are always brightly-lit transparent boxes reducing the chance of passengers being hassled or abused.) Near the Hague, the underground station at Zoetermeer is colourfully designed in pastels. The glass and steel canopy is a raspberry ice-cream pink, deliberately clashing with royal blue and apple green girders.

On the platforms traditional glass block "pavement" lights are

used on the walls, illuminated from behind, in pinks, pale yellows, soft greens and light blues. Everything glows, each detail is coloured, the circular blue seats on green girders and columns with red and blue stripes. Even the black and white clock has a red second hand.

Still more exciting stations are on the way. The new central station at the university town of Leiden will open in 1995 with a spectacular new conjuring trick.

At Amsterdam's Sloterdijk station, Dutch railway architects had astonished passengers by bringing the high-level trains straight through the concourse in a glass tunnel. At Leiden, tracks and platforms are carried on special transparent bridges to allow daylight into the concourse below. In other words you will look up and see the train drawing into the station above you, providing a new form of relief to latecomers.

Here again there will be a great arched roof, unusually running across not along the tracks. But in a neat reversal of tradition, the girders which carry the glass roof are not inside but outside and run diagonally like a gothic cross vault.

Still more of an engineering sensation will be the multi-level station at Rotterdam Blaak, where the train, subway and tram interchange in three layers.

A single steel lattice truss spanning the entire complex proclaims the whereabouts of the station to passing traffic. The cunning part is the way it appears to be a crane,

ready to pick up the circular glass roof over the entrance and swing it to the other side of the tracks. The all-glass roof over the stairs up to the exits, says Reijnders, "makes the way out to the city easy to find as it is bathed in daylight." Neon lights on the arch, he says, will tell passengers on the square outside whether a train is approaching or leaving the underground station.

Mr Reijnders emphasises that Dutch railways can take as much pride in restoring fine old stations as building new ones. At Wolgave in Friesland, a pretty country station of the 1860s has been immaculately restored. What gives it charm is the use of the same fret for both the roof and the platform canopy. This is a "modern" restoration, not a period one. The clean black and white colouring is in no way Victorian and the interior is shiny steel and illuminated glass panels. These are set in a rectangular grid, giving them the look of the opaque paper walls in a traditional Japanese house. Beneath the canopy the juxtaposition of old and new is neatly made by the introduction of a tiled clear glass screen just a little like a Japanese fan.

The best part of Holland's amazing station programme is the way it sets out unashamedly to appeal to the public with bright colours, clean buildings and a welcoming sense of openness. "What I like about designing stations is that they are seen by many more people each day than any other type of public building," says Reijnders.

Craftsmen will pitch their wares at a new fair in Amsterdam



Arts-and-crafty home for arts-and-crafty folk: the De Beurs van Berlage building on the Damrak

Tougher than tulips

The Dutch tourist board will have more than tulips to promote next spring. May 1993 will see the opening of a new international crafts fair to be held each year in the beautiful De Beurs van Berlage building in Damrak, a prime location in Amsterdam.

The fair, plans for which were unveiled yesterday, is a joint initiative between Britain's Crafts Council, promoting contemporary crafts in England and Wales, and Dutch Form, a similar organisation in the Netherlands.

Running from May 11 to 17 of next year, it will feature 250 exhibitors, about three-quarters of whom are expected to be British or Dutch, at least in the first instance. Ceramics, glass, metalwork, jewellery, furniture and textiles will all be included, with designers selected on merit by an independent panel. The De Beurs van Berlage building, home of the Netherlands Philharmonic Orchestra, was built at the turn of the

century. It has a wealth of decorative features from carved panelling to stained glass, and will add a unique flavour to the event; but the fair will be building on a direct selling formula already tested at London's Chelsea Crafts Fair.

Organiser Morris Latham of the Crafts Council explains: "Last year the turnover at Chelsea was up to 1.3 million pounds. With modern production methods, and Third World countries offering such cheap labour, the availability of giftware and products that compete on price is so universal that those who can afford it are looking for more individual, design-based pieces. An event such as Chelsea shows that people like buying from the designers themselves. And it's a two-way process. The process of standing by one's work and hearing people talk about it is extremely helpful for the makers."

While interest in contemporary crafts has dramatically increased in Britain in recent years, Latham

believes that other European countries have more of a tradition of acquiring modern pieces. "Unlike most European countries, Britain hasn't been trampled upon or looted over the last 1,000 years. It hasn't been invaded so there are huge stocks of antiques and artefacts. Until recently, when people came into a little money, they would tend to buy something old. The continent on the other hand is wholly attuned to buying something new, as is America."

But will Europeans buy "crafts" when they could be buying "art"? Latham laughs off the distinction. "Bach wrote a series of wonderful letters calling himself a craftsman. A bookbinder might choose to call himself an artist. Like beauty, it's in the eye of the beholder."

Craft-makers who wish to be considered for the fair should write to: Crafts Council, 44a Pentonville Road, Islington, London N1 9BY.

STEPHANIE BILLEN

Fooled by hope

Benjamin Ivry sees a colourful Paris production of an opera by Dallapiccola

THE Paris Châtelet Theatre's admirably adventurous opera season has recently offered impressive stagings of Berg's *Lulu* starring Brigitte Fassbänder and Hans Hotter, as well as Bruno Maderna's rarely performed *Hyperion*.

The series has continued with three performances of a new production of *Il Prigioniero* (The Prisoner), a one-act opera by the Italian modernist Luigi Dallapiccola, conducted by the talented young Swedish maestro Esa-Pekka Salonen with the Swedish Radio Orchestra.

Dallapiccola was part of a post-war school of composers including Maderna and also Luigi Nono, whose large-scale works made orchestras sound like laboratories for experimental sounds. Indeed, *Il Prigioniero* was premiered in 1950 by that arch-innovator and great musician Hermann Scherchen.

At 34, Salonen cannot be expected to have quite the same command; nevertheless the orchestra and chorus under his direction sounded both good and loud. At some orchestral *tutti* the sonorities were almost reminiscent of Puccini's *Turandot*, which only proves that Dallapiccola, despite all his originality, is still with the *bel canto* tradition at heart.

The plot of *Il Prigioniero* is summed up in the title of the story by Villiers de l'Isle Adam that inspired the piece, "Torture Through Hope". An anonymous prisoner is led to believe by a jailer that he will be freed, when in fact he is led to the gallows. Not a sunny little tale, and fortunately the baritone David Pittman-Jennings, in the part of the jailed man, turned in a gutsy and gritty reading of his role.

The eerie double role of jailer and Grand Inquisitor was sung to much effect by the Swiss tenor Peter Keller, often heard on Europe's opera stages as Wagner's Mime, a role not unrelated to that of Dallapiccola's character. In the most striking stage effect, a chorus of cowed figures played eighteen across to fill the stage, and stacked four high, one atop another's shoulders, shrieked out a hymn as a blinding light is flashed at the audience.

Apart from that light, a tired cliché of the avant-garde theatre no doubt secretly funded by optometrists' associations, the overall dramatic tension of the piece was high. However, the panoply of pastel colours, including an endless string of neon key-line documents and red-orange umbrellas, added just a bit too much pigment to the prisoner's final sufferings.

It may be that the director Bernard Sobel, who is in charge of the imaginative theatre at Genevilliers, wished at all costs to avoid giving an impression of a "grey" evening in the theatre. If so, he and Maderna Salonen succeeded, as *Il Prigioniero* is more gripping musically and sonically than any opera seen for a long time in Paris.

As the work lasts less than an hour, the programme was balanced with seven Monteverdi madrigals, unfortunately sung by a rather unbalanced quintet called the Groupe Vocal de France, who were badly in need of a conductor. An event that epitomised the lack of madrigal teamwork in this season in Paris, was when the bass turned his head to sneeze during one number: it was right at the tenor, instead of away from his colleagues, that he chose to sneeze.

Although Monteverdi's madrigals are indeed also about love and war, the Dallapiccola work left the most lasting imprint: in the tradition of "prison rescue" operas like *Fidelio* or Cherubini's *Les Deux Journées* or even Smetana's *Dalibor*, but written at a time when realisation dawned on the artist that in some cases, no rescue is possible.

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

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ORCHESTRA: Wolfgang Sawallisch conducts an all-Beethoven programme comprising the Second Symphony and the "Eroica" Symphony, No 3. The concert is repeated on April 24.
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POST-WAR ART: Otto von der Loo has presented his important collection of post-war art to the Neue Nationalgalerie. The main emphasis is on widely handled, thickly coated paintings by Asger Jorn, Karl Appel, and Pierre Alechinsky.
Neue Nationalgalerie, Potsdamerstrasse 50. Tel: (49 30) 26696. Until May 3.

FRANKFURT
DIE GROSSE UTOPIE: A fascinating exploration of the Russian Avant-Garde period (1915-1932), this exhibition boasts more than 800 exhibits, two-thirds of them from museums and private collections in the Soviet Union, and many on public display for the first time since the Twenties.
Städt. Kunsthalle, Am Hornberg. Tel: (49 69) 2998220. Until May 10.

HAGUE
FLORADE: The horticultural event happens in the Netherlands once every ten years and displays plant specimens from around the world. This year it is set in the 68-hectare park of Zoetermeer.
Zoetermeer (approximately 15km east of The Hague) Tel: (31 70) 79581992. Until Oct 11.

HAMBURG
HAMBURG BALLET: The company performs John Neschner's *Fenster zu Mozart*, set to the music of Mozart, Reger, Beethoven, Schmitt, von Schwanow.
Hamburgische Staatsoper, Grosses Schauspielhaus. Tel: (49 40) 351721. Apr 16, 25, May 17.

KORTRIJK
FLANDERS FESTIVAL
KORTRIJK: The Chorus of Windsor, Maidenhead, Goslar, Neully and Kortrijk open the festival tonight with a performance of Verdi's *Requiem*. The second festival concert is given on April 27 by the Trio Frans Brüggem, Gustav Leonhardt and Anner Bijlma performing a programme of Italian instrumental miniatures of the 17th century.
Festival van Vlaanderen-Kortrijk, Jan Breydelaan 12. Tel: (32 56) 222629. Until June 23.

PARIS
PELLEAS ET MELISANDE: Co-production with Welsh National Opera of Debussy's opera, conducted by Pierre Boulez.
Théâtre du Châtelet, 2 rue Edouard Colonne. Tel: (33 1) 40288840. Apr 16, 22, 25.

VIENNA
DUANE HANSON: Life-size, natural sculptures created from glass fibre by the contemporary American realist whose work is shown in Europe for the first time.
Kunststube Wien, Untere Welschergasse 13. Tel: (43 1) 7120455. Until Apr 30.

8.00am Coffee 8.30 BBC Breakfast News 9.05 Defenders Of The Earth 9.25 Why Don't You... 10.00 News, Regional News & Weather 10.05 Playdays 10.25 The Family Man 10.35 People Today 11.00 News, Regional News & Weather 11.05 The Prisoners Comedy Show 11.30 People Today 12.00 News, Regional News & Weather 1.00 News, Regional News & Weather 1.30 Neighbours 1.50 Carlton 2.00 Racing From Cheltenham 3.50 News & Current Affairs 4.15 Attack Of The Killer Tomatoes 4.35 The Movie Game 5.00 Newsround 5.10 Little Sir Nicholas 5.35 Neighbours 6.00 News & Weather 6.30 Regional News & Weather 7.00 Wogan 7.20 Tomorrow's World 7.30 On The Border 7.40 News 8.00 News 8.10 News 8.20 News 8.30 News 8.40 News 8.50 News 9.00 News 9.10 News 9.20 News 9.30 News 9.40 News 9.50 News 10.00 News 10.10 News 10.20 News 10.30 News 10.40 News 10.50 News 11.00 News 11.10 News 11.20 News 11.30 News 11.40 News 11.50 News 12.00 News 12.10 News 12.20 News 12.30 News 12.40 News 12.50 News 1.00 News 1.10 News 1.20 News 1.30 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